SPITFIRE SPECIAL ISSUE – AIRFIX 1/72 AND 1/48 BUILDS

November 2025
AMW 180

*Closes 9/1/26

AIRFIX Model World

EXCLUSIVE!

NINE 'ECHO'

AIRFIX NEW-TOOL 1/48 SPITFIRE Mk.IXe BREAKS COVER

WIN SPITFIRE KIT AND BOOK BUNDLES WORTH £220*

KeyModelWorld.com
£5.99
KEY Publishing

FIRST LOOK

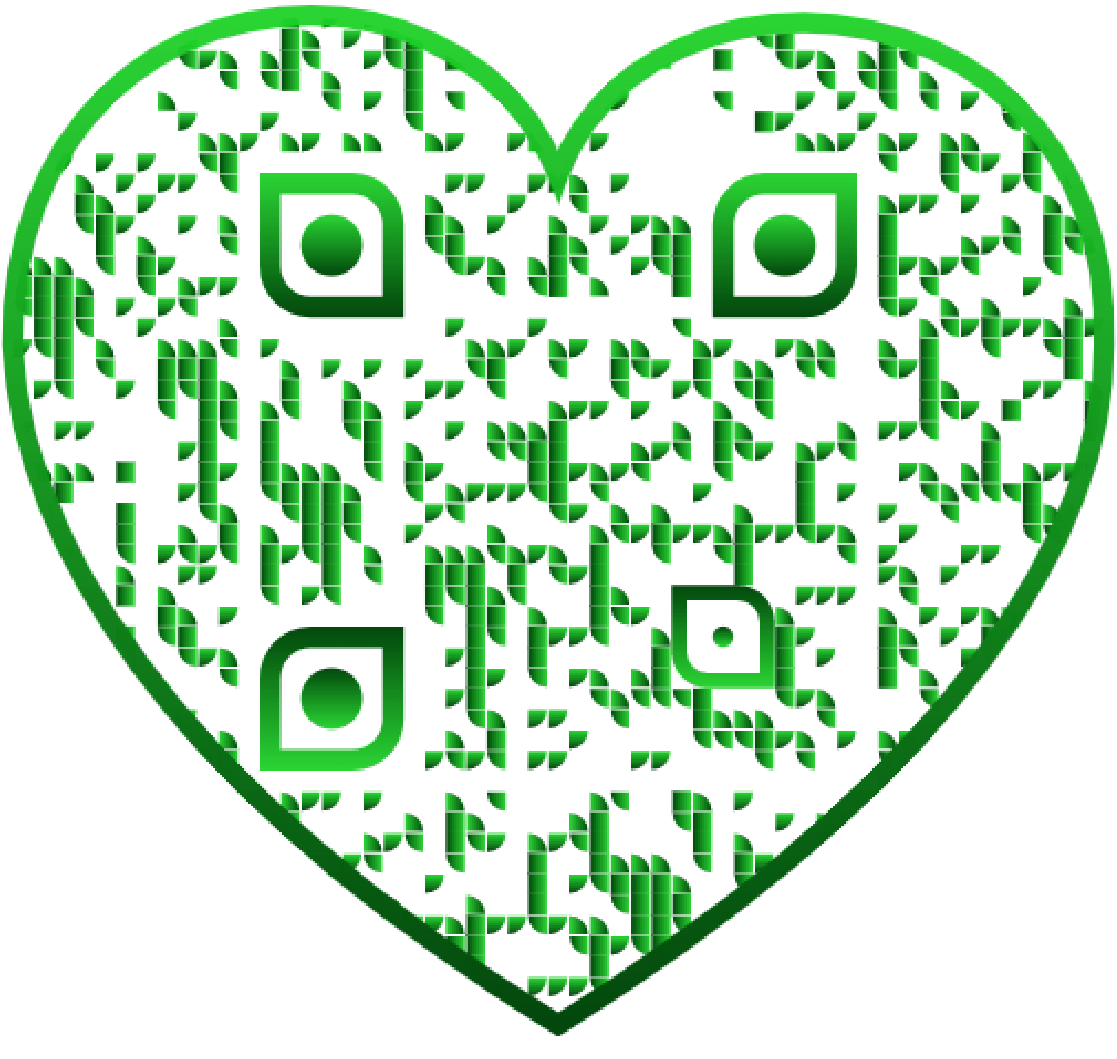
DESERT SCOUT

AIRFIX'S REWORKED 1/35 FERRET MK.1

MARKINGS UPGRADE

FLYVEVABEN FAREWELL

ENHANCING KINETIC'S 1/48 F-16A MLU



THE MOST IMMERSIVE VEHICULAR COMBAT EXPERIENCE
WAR THUNDER
646
2500+ PLAYABLE VEHICLES | 100+ LARGE-SCALE MAPS | INTENSE PVP & PVE ACTION
GET YOUR BONUS
WARTHUNDER.COM/FLY
Windows
STEAM
Mac
oculus
VIVE
PS4
XBOX ONE
PS5
XBOX SERIES X|S
Gaijin entertainment
© 2009—2018 by Gaijin Entertainment. All rights reserved.
12
www.pegi.info

keymodelworld.com/
scale-modelling

facebook.com/
airfixmodelworld

x.com/
airfixworldmag

WELCOME TO ISSUE 180

As autumn creeps up on us (although the recent weather hasn't exactly been subtle) the longer evenings gives us modellers plenty of time for our hobby – and with Scale ModelWorld just around the corner, no doubt it's time to get all those builds completed.

This got me thinking – I know, a dangerous habit for an editor! – about how I would be planning my workbench. I usually have one or two builds on the go and its easy to switch between the two, but an extra project has got me reorganising my set-up. Plastic storage boxes have been a boon for keeping the kits separate and serving as temporary drying areas, but do you have any tips on how to best arrange your hobby area? Speaking of all those builds you're working on, do remember to send us a photo for *Display Case* as it's always a pleasure to see the results.

We're delighted to bring you an exclusive test-shot build of Airfix's new-tool 1/48 Spitfire Mk.IXe, which is sure to be popular. Staying on that theme, we've also got an aftermarket build of the firm's recent 1/72 Spitfire Mk.Vc in an unusual livery, while IBG's all-new photo-recce Spitfire gets a big preview in the *News* pages. Tearing ourselves away from all things Supermarine, there's a great 'how-to' article involving a Wingnut Wings 1/32 Albatross B.II, and Kinetic's 1/48 F-16A MLU is transformed into a Danish display mount – there's also a great *Photo Focus* on this airframe. If you prefer military subjects, then Airfix's 1/35 Ferret Mk.1 is sure to impress, while Alternity Miniatures' 1/10 Dafne 2220 dystopian future warrior is the subject of a cracking figure build. This month also sees the return of our *Back to Basics* series, with a quick look at the types of primes available.

I hope you enjoy the issue!

Stu Fone, Editor
stuart.fone@keypublishing.com

EDITORIAL TEAM
Editor: Stu Fone
Editor at Large: Chris Clifford
Contributors this issue:
Mikael Terfors, Matthew Roberts, Jed Jaggard, Kev Smith, Huw Morgan, Mike Verier, Jack Homewood, Alan Price, Johan Augustsson, Andy Thomas
Group Production Editor: David Taylor
Production Editors: Sally Hooton, Sue Parslow, Suzanne Roberts
Designer: Druck Media
Cover Design: Steve Diggle

EDITORIAL CONTACT
Airfix Model World, Key Publishing Ltd,
PO Box 100, Stamford, Lincs,
PE9 1XQ, UK.
Email: stuart.fone@keypublishing.com
Tel: 01780 755131

BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT
Print & Production Co-ordinator: Debi McGowan
Group Advertising Manager - Consumer: Sam Clark
Publisher – Modelling: Mike Wild
Group CEO: Adrian Cox

ADVERTISING TEAM
Advertising Sales Manager: Matt Sinclair
Advertising Sales Executive: Emma Sherratt
Senior Ad Production Controller/Designer:
Becky Antoniades

SUBMISSIONS

We will gladly accept and review for publication any, products, articles, letters, photographs or other contributions. We cannot guarantee publication nor, regrettably, return items sent to us or be responsible for their loss. We will try and reply where possible. Any letters are assumed suitable for publication unless we are otherwise notified. All items submitted for publication are subject to our terms and conditions. These are regularly updated without prior notice and are freely available from Key Publishing Ltd or downloadable from www.keypublishing.com.

Printed by: Acorn Web Offset Ltd,
Normanton, UK.

Distributed by: Seymour Distribution Ltd,
2 Poultry Avenue, London, EC1A 9PP
Tel: 020 7429 4000.
Airfix Model World, ISSN 2045-1202 (USPS 4440), is published monthly by Key Publishing Ltd, PO Box 300, Stamford, Lincolnshire, PE9 1NA, UK.

The US annual subscription price is $72.99. Airfreight and mailing in the USA by agent named World Container INC 150-15, 183rd St, Jamaica, NY 11413, USA.

Periodicals postage paid at Brooklyn NY 11256.

US Postmaster: Send address changes to *Airfix Model World*, Air Business Ltd, c/o World Container INC 150-15, 183rd St, Jamaica, NY 11413, USA.

Subscription records are maintained at Key Publishing Ltd, PO Box 300, Stamford, Lincolnshire, PE9 1NA, UK.

Air Business Ltd is acting as our mailing agent.

We are unable to guarantee the bona fides of any of our advertisers. Readers are strongly recommended to take their own precautions before parting with any information or item of value, including, but not limited to, money, manuscripts, photographs or personal information in response to any advertisements within this publication.

The entire contents of *Airfix Model World* is © Copyright 2025. No part of it can be reproduced in any form or stored on any form of retrieval system without the prior permission of the publisher. Publisher: Mike Wild.

"AIRFIX'' is a registered trade mark of Hornby Hobbies Limited and is used under licence.

KEY
Publishing

KEY STORE FINDER
To find a stockist near you, visit
keypublishing.com/storefinder

abc
The average sale for the period Jan-Dec 2024 was **11,754** print and digital copies monthly

CONTENTS

REGULARS

06 News
The latest news from the world of scale modelling, including Airfix's recent releases, previews of IBG Models' stunning 1/72 Spitfire PR Type A/B/E, the Das Werk 1/32 Messerschmitt P.1101 prototype jet fighter and Kōtare's 1/32 Messerschmitt Bf 109K-4. There's a new model shop for locals in the Royal Wootton Basset area, plus a rather unusual new tooling from Master-X, in the form of the 1/48 Leduc 022-01 turbo-/ram-jet powered interceptor concept.

12 Display Case
The latest selection of readers' builds from around the world.

14 Free Gift
Subscribe to *AMW* and receive a free gift – check www.keymodelworld.com for what's on offer.

114 Show Guide
Our handy at-a-glance guide to 2025 and 2026 event dates.

84

REVIEWS
ON THE SHELF

92 Books
94 Aircraft
98 Military
100 Auto
102 Maritime
104 Decals
106 Accessories
110 Recently released

32

52

16

70

40

FEATURES

16 Advanced Build – **A very Swedish bird**
Mikael Terfors showcases a series of techniques for World War One subjects using Wingnut Wings' 1/32 Albatros B.II (Early), while adding a Swedish touch to the build.

26 Out and About – **Stafford Extravaganza**
The first model show after the unofficial event 'summer recess' was a resounding success, with plenty on show, as Stu Fone reports.

28 In Focus – **Brylcreem Boys**
The final instalment of our series on RAF uniforms addresses the equipment worn by personnel during the Cold War period.

32 Intermediate Build – **Desert Ferret**
Having tackled the new-tool Ferret Mk.2, Kev Smith couldn't resist the opportunity to build Airfix's revised 1/35 Ferret Mk.I offering.

40 Intermediate Build – **Flyvevaben farewell**
Kinetic's pleasing 1/48 F-16A MLU is transformed by Huw Morgan into a stunning Danish display aircraft, courtesy of Syhart's new decal and paint set.

48 Photo Focus – **Fifty Not Out**
AMW contributor Mike Verier provides a photo study of the Danish display F-16 to accompany this month's build feature.

52 Intermediate Build – **Malta Defender**
Airfix's 1/72 Spitfire Mk.Vc receives an aftermarket upgrade from Jack Homewood, before being finished in an unusual scheme from the siege of Malta during World War Two.

60 Exclusive Build – **Not Your Usual Spitfire**
Alan Price leapt at the opportunity to build a test-shot of Airfix's new-tool 1/48 Spitfire Mk.IXe, finding much to enjoy.

70 Figure Build – **New Earth Defender**
Limiting your colour pallet when painting figures can be a rewarding technique, as Johan Augustsson explains on his build of Alternity Miniatures' 1/10 Dafne 2220.

78 Back to Basics – **Prime Time!**
We take a look at primers from a type and technique perspective, in response to a series of questions from AMW readers.

82 Out and About – **Fenland Scorcher**
Not even one of the hottest days of the year could detract from attending the West Norfolk club's West Anglia Scale Model Show, held once more at the Littleport Leisure Centre.

84 Basic Build – **Rising Sun Bomber**
Sometimes a change of subject can effectively restore the modelling mojo, as Alan Price discovered with ICM's 1/48 Ki-21-Ib 'Sally'.

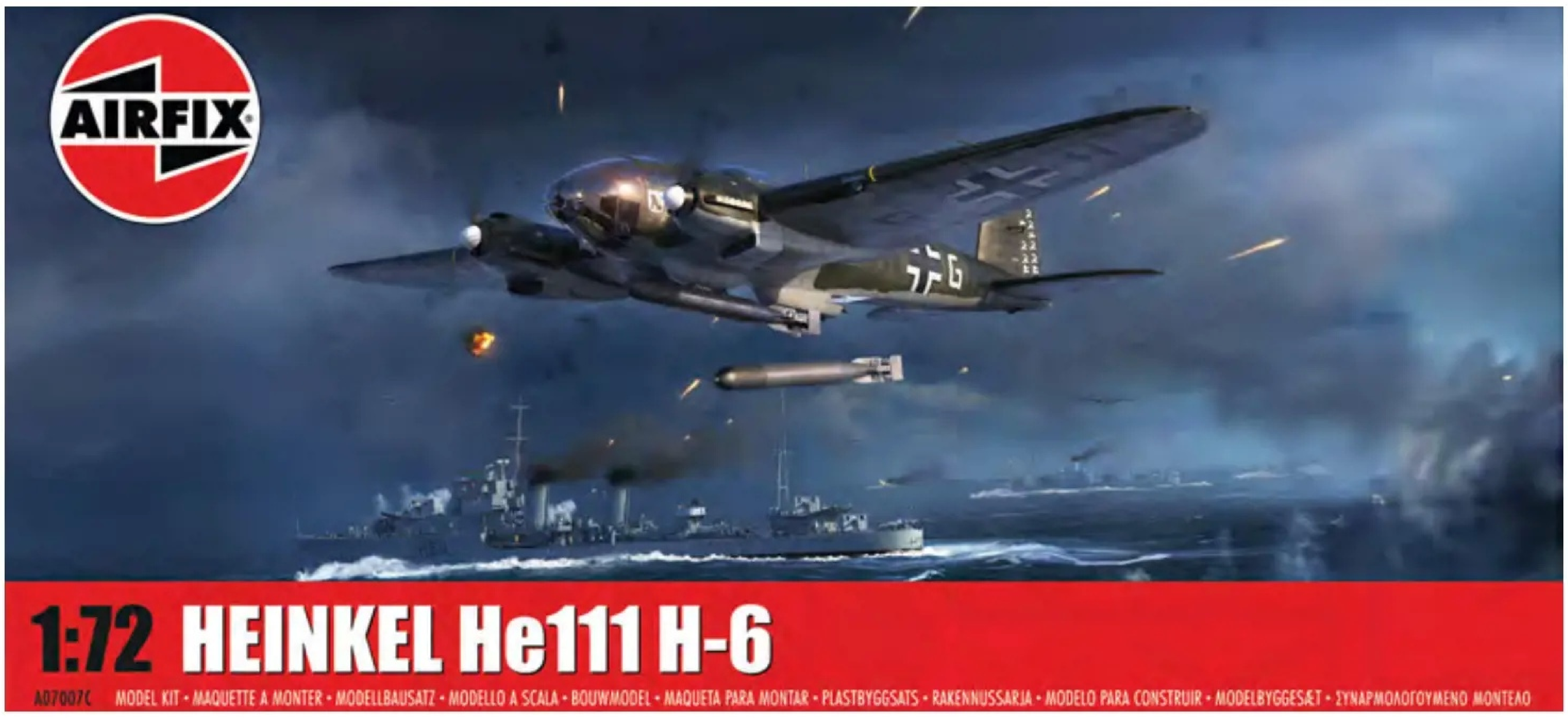
WIN

Turn to page 68 for your chance to win one of three Supermarine Spitfire book and kit bundles, with a combined prize pot of more than £220.

SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE Mk.IXe

SPITFIRE ACES

NEW FROM AIRFIX


AIRFIX
1:72 HEINKEL He111 H-6
A07007C MODEL KIT • MAQUETTE A MONTER • MODELLBAUSATZ • MODELLO A SCALA • BOUWMODEL • MAQUETA PARA MONTAR • PLASTBYGGSATS • RAKENNUSSARJA • MODELO PARA CONSTRUIR • MODELBYGGESÆT • ΣΥΝΑΡΜΟΛΟΓΟΥΜΕΝΟ ΜΟΝΤΕΛΟ

IT'S BEEN a busy month of Airfix releases, covering aviation, real-space and military subjects.

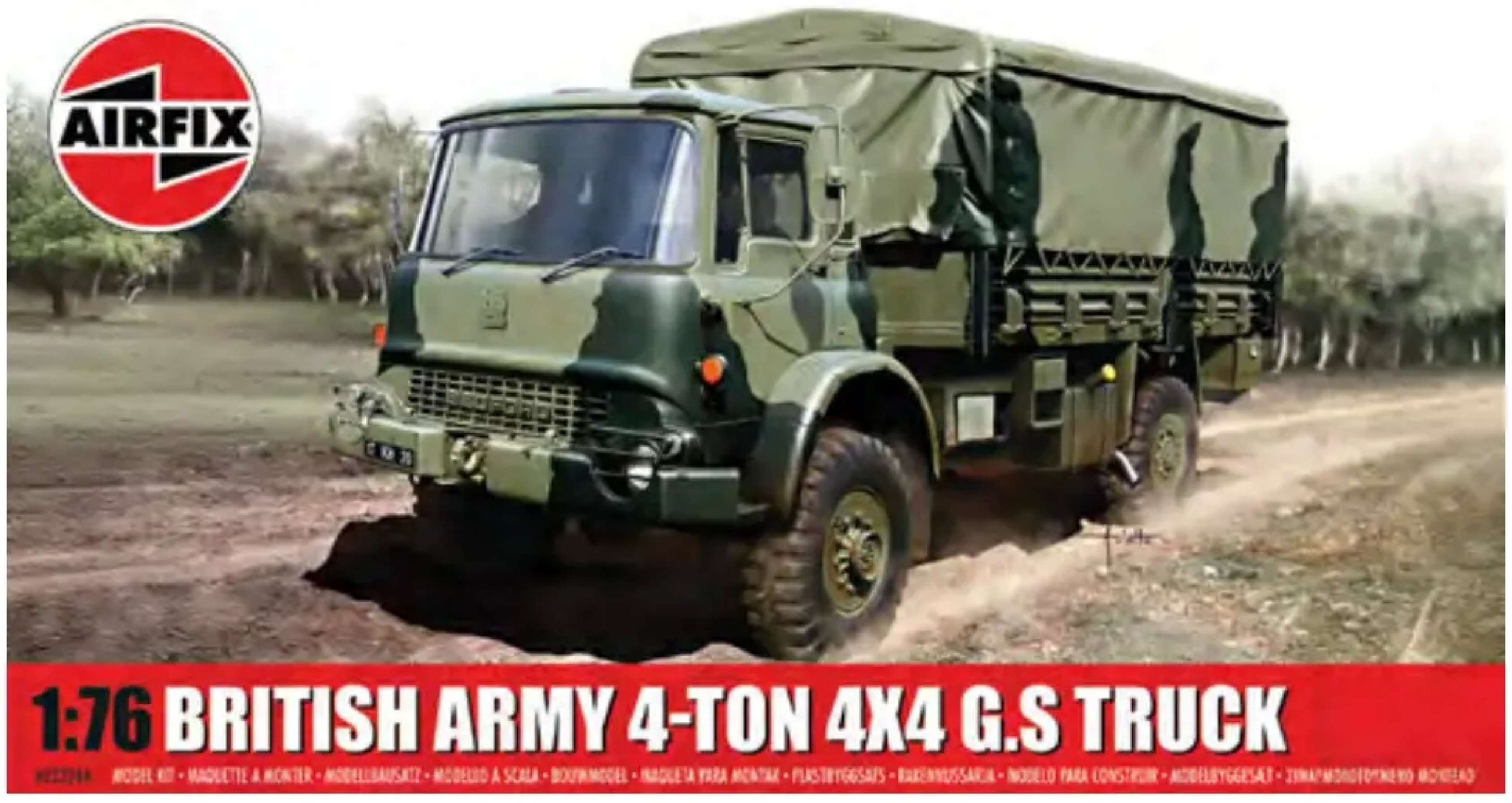
We start with the 1/72 Heinkel He 111H-6 (A07007C), which has been issued with unchanged parts, offering a choice of wing rack-mounted SC 1000 or LT F5b torpedoes and new decals. There's a Norway-based Kampfgeschwader 26 airframe in standard splinter camouflage, or a Kalamaki Airfield, Greece-deployed Kampfgeschwader 100 pathfinder machine, which wears an unusual RLM 79 Sandgelb/80 Olivgrün pattern over RLM 22 Black undersides.

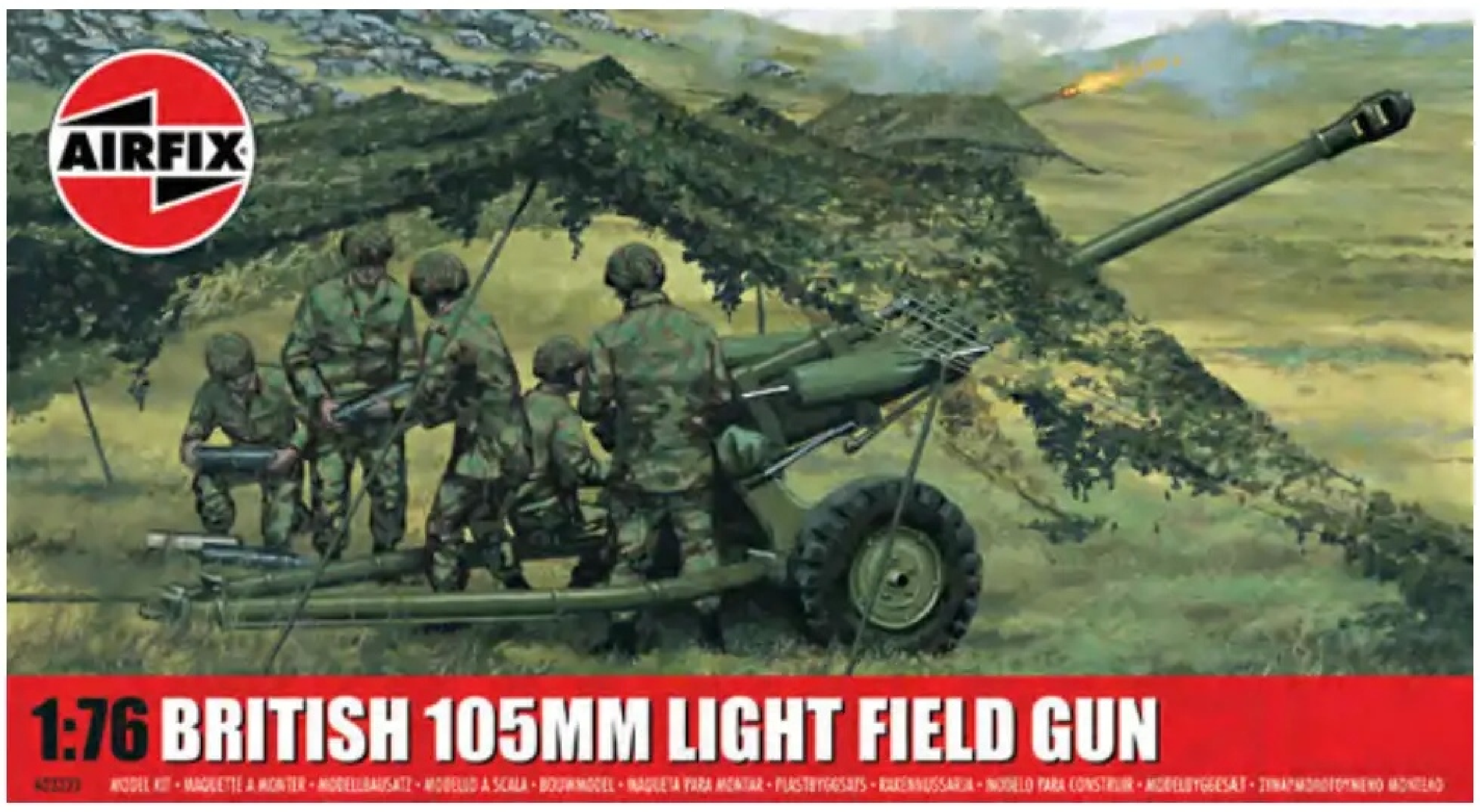
Switching types and allegiances, the next is the 'fabric-wing' 1/72 Hawker Hurricane Mk.I (A02067A); the six styrene runners are unchanged from previous iterations, giving modellers the option of raised/lowered undercarriage, two styles of exhaust and underfuselage panels, plus a two or three-bladed prop. The schemes are a pleasing mix of RAF pre-war airframes from 56 (F) and 73 Squadrons, with Dark Earth/Dark Green upper surfaces and either aluminium or white/black/aluminium undersides.

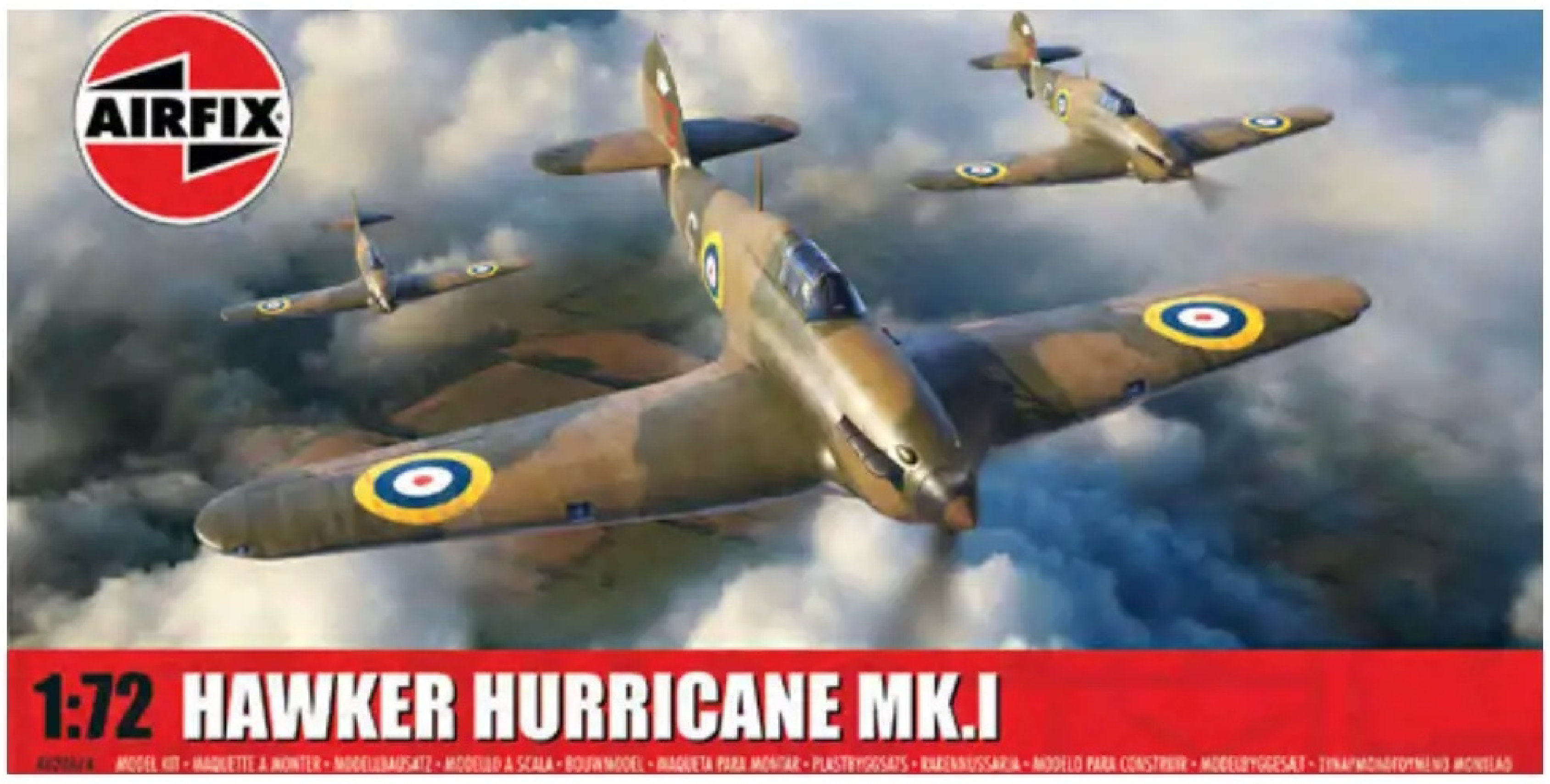
Bringing the aviation subjects into more recent history, Airfix's new-tool 1/72 Westland Wessex HC.2 (A04068, £24.99) has arrived. A full build of this splendid kit is in *AMW*176, July 2025 and the kit has options for extended/folded main rotor blades and three schemes, two of which are for the same airframe in RAF and Uruguayan service.

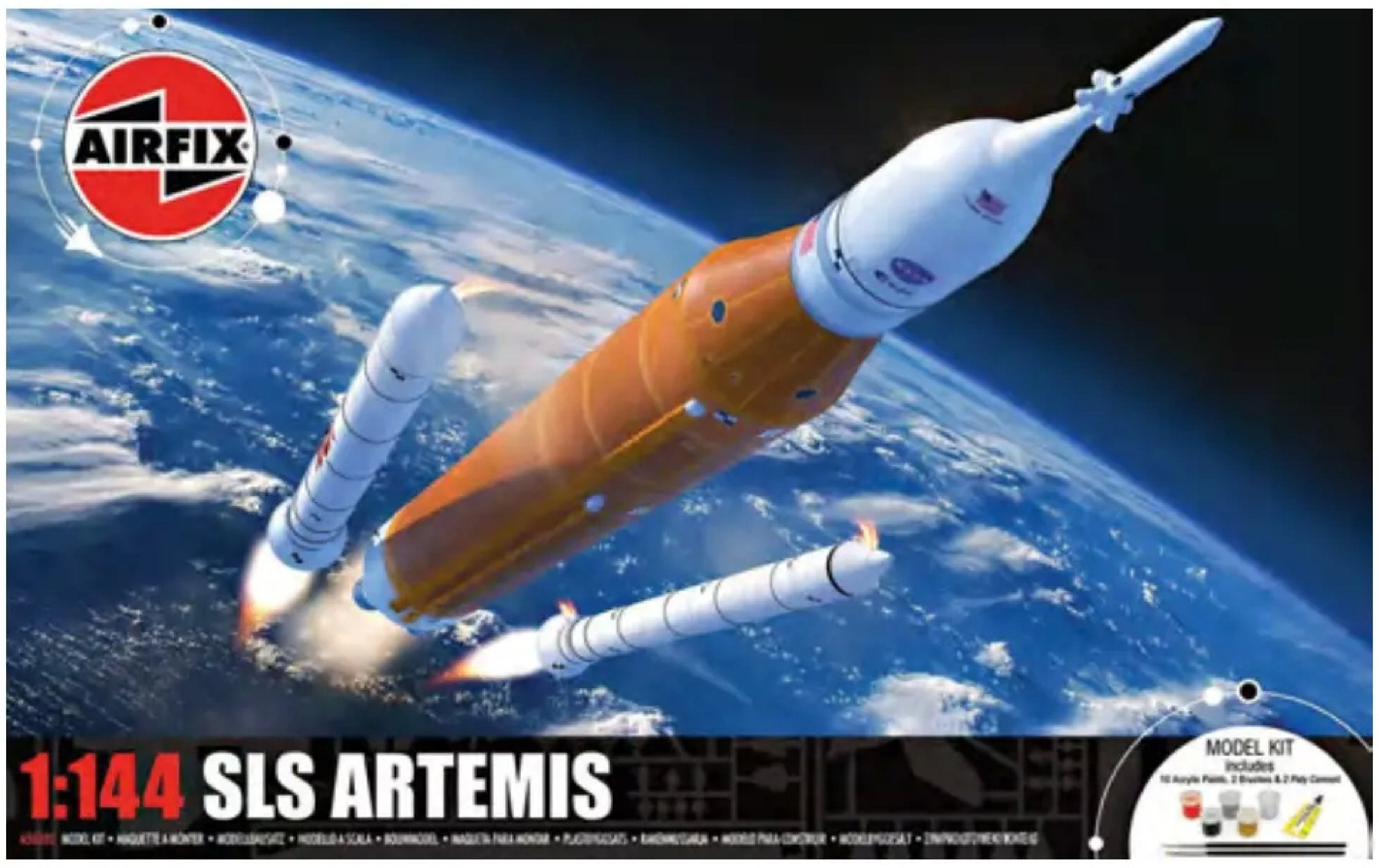
Turning to the military genre, we now have the first two of four classic Cold War subjects, in the form of the 1/76 British Army 4-ton 4 x 4 G.S Truck (A02326A, £11.99) and British 105mm Light Field Gun (A02332, £11.99). Both are re-issues; the Bedford comes with new markings, while the 105mm Gun is unchanged. They will be ideal as either simple builds from the box or incorporating into a diorama, and their return is most welcome.

The final two kits need little introduction, both having been covered extensively in *AMW*178, September 2025's issue: these being the Saturn V (A50201, £49.99) and SLS Artemis (A50202, £49.99) rockets, with the latter being an all-new tooling. While the Saturn V is moulded entirely in white (including the base), the latter has a black stand, the remainder being white. Being Gift Sets, both come with tubes of Humbrol Poly Cement, paint brushes and a selection of acrylic paints. The Artemis pack has ten 'pots', comprising 11 Silver, 18 Orange, 19 Bright Red, 33 Black, 53 Gunmetal and 100 Red Brown, with the intent being you don't need to paint the white styrene. Similarly, there are seven pots for the Saturn V, these being 11, 16 Gold, 18, 33, 53 and 56 Aluminium. More on these and other Airfix products is at: https://uk.airfix.com


AIRFIX
1:76 BRITISH ARMY 4-TON 4X4 G.S TRUCK


AIRFIX
1:76 BRITISH 105MM LIGHT FIELD GUN


AIRFIX
1:72 HAWKER HURRICANE MK.I


AIRFIX
1:144 SLS ARTEMIS
MODEL KIT
Includes

ALL-NEW BF 109K-14 FROM KŌTARE

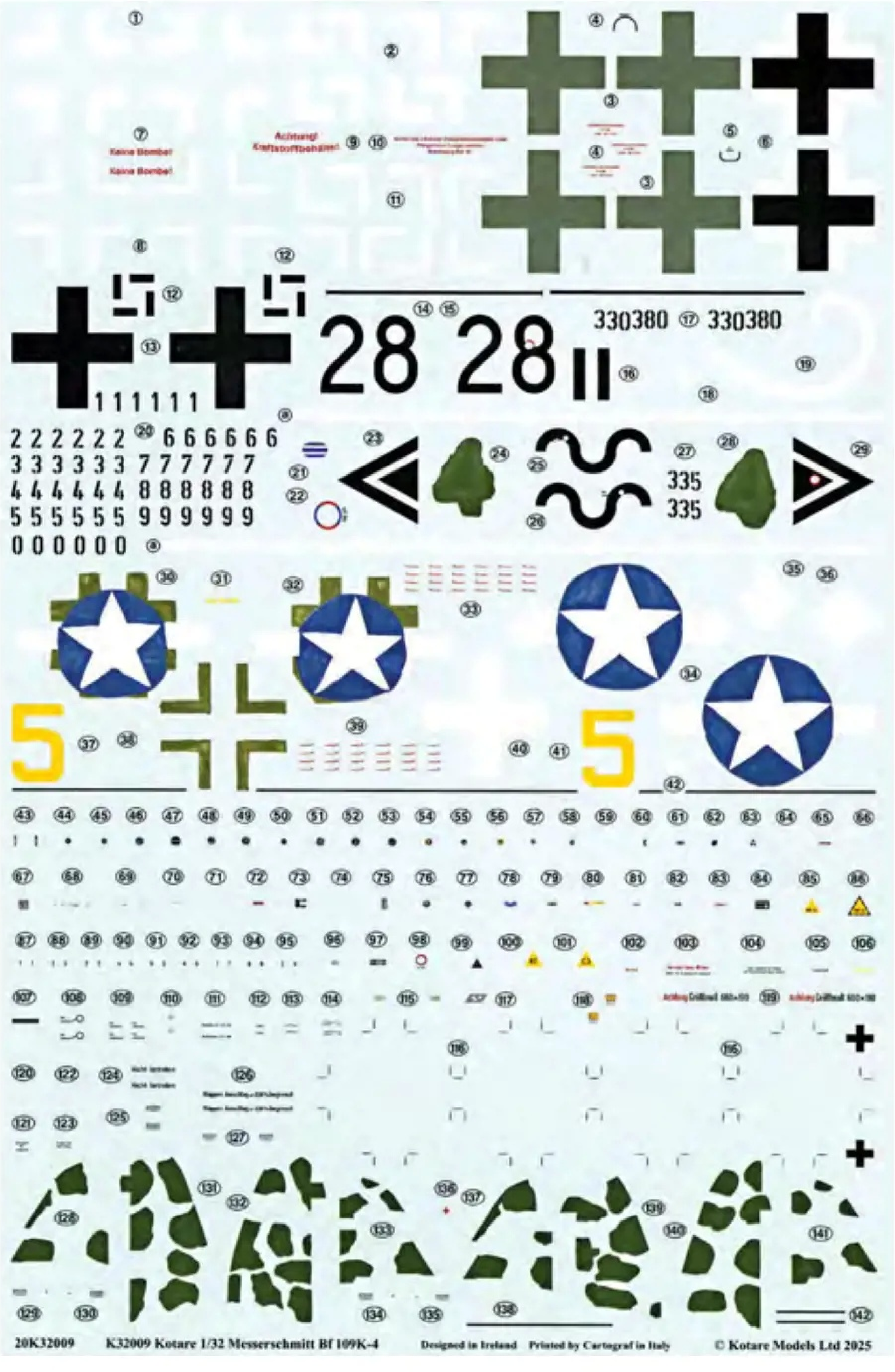
KŌTARE
1/32
Messerschmitt Bf 109K-4

HAVING OPENED its account with a trio of 1/32 Spitfires – and with more to come – it's perhaps apt that Kōtare has followed these with a German arch-rival, the Messerschmitt Bf 109, with the New Zealand firm opting for a late-war K-4 variant.

This kit adheres to Kōtare's established format of having a reduced parts count, with the primary aims being to maximise accuracy and ease assembly, so there are no photo-etched components and no engine. Consequently, the kit comprises just five styrene runners, with all parts displaying Kōtare's close attention to detail, such as different instrument panels depending on the production block, use of ex-Bf 109G fuselage sections (with different panel configurations) and whether an airframe was fitted with the outboard undercarriage doors. Mould quality is excellent throughout, and the small runner attachment gates will make preparation much easier. Helpful guidance is given on most assembly stages, including if items on the real aircraft were made from wood, which aids the modeller when adding weathering, and there are tips on creating extra refinement for those to want to improve their model.

Neat touches aren't confined to just the styrene parts, as the decal sheet has all the required mottling, along with the 'painted' US 'star and bar' insignia on the captured airframe. Markings are supplied for three aircraft, plus a full set of stencils. Note that swastikas are split to comply with European laws. The choices are:

- Wk Nr 330380, Black 20+I, Lt Walter Kopp, III./JG 26, January 1945
- Wk Nr 355###, <<+~, Adolf Borchers, Stab III./JG 52, April-May 1945
- Captured II./JG 52 in temporary USAAF markings, May-June 1945



The 1/32 Bf 109K-4 retails for £109.99 in the UK and while the price may appear off-putting, it's arguably the best kit of the type yet released, regardless of scale.

Kōtare has also released a 3D-printed resin upgrade set for the Bf 109K-4, which comprises a pair of exhaust nozzles and anti-flash shields (32P005). There are just two neatly detailed parts, one for each side, and these are drop-in replacement for the kit parts, priced at £16.99 in the UK. For more on these and other Kōtare releases, visit: www.kotare-models.com/

NEW BRAND VARNISH

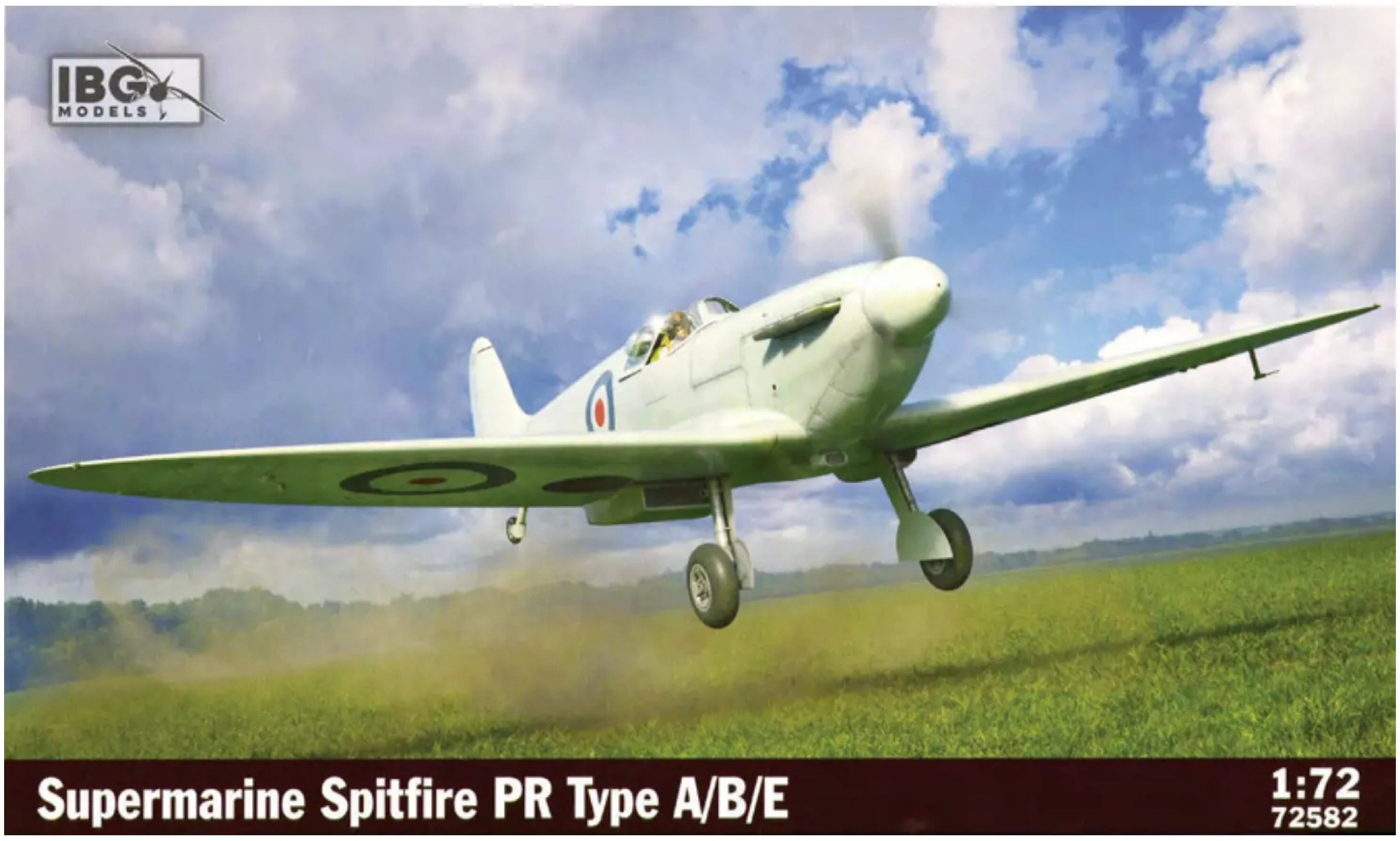
IF YOU'RE looking for an easy-to-use acrylic gloss varnish, then Scottish firm Modellers United's recently released Aqua Gloss is well worth considering. It comes in a 30ml glass bottle and is airbrush-ready, drying with a crystal-clear finish that's ideal either as a pre-decaling or wash layer, or as a final gloss varnish. As a water-based acrylic product, it's not only safe to use in enclosed spaces (with proper ventilation), but also easier to clean up. Brushes and airbrushes can be rinsed with water before the varnish dries, and there's no harsh chemical odour during application. It's also excellent for dipping canopies and other glazed parts. While the varnish appears white in the bottle, it will dry to a hard sheen. Modellers United products are distributed in the UK by Albion Hobbies (www.albionhobbies.com) and Aqua Gloss is priced at £6.

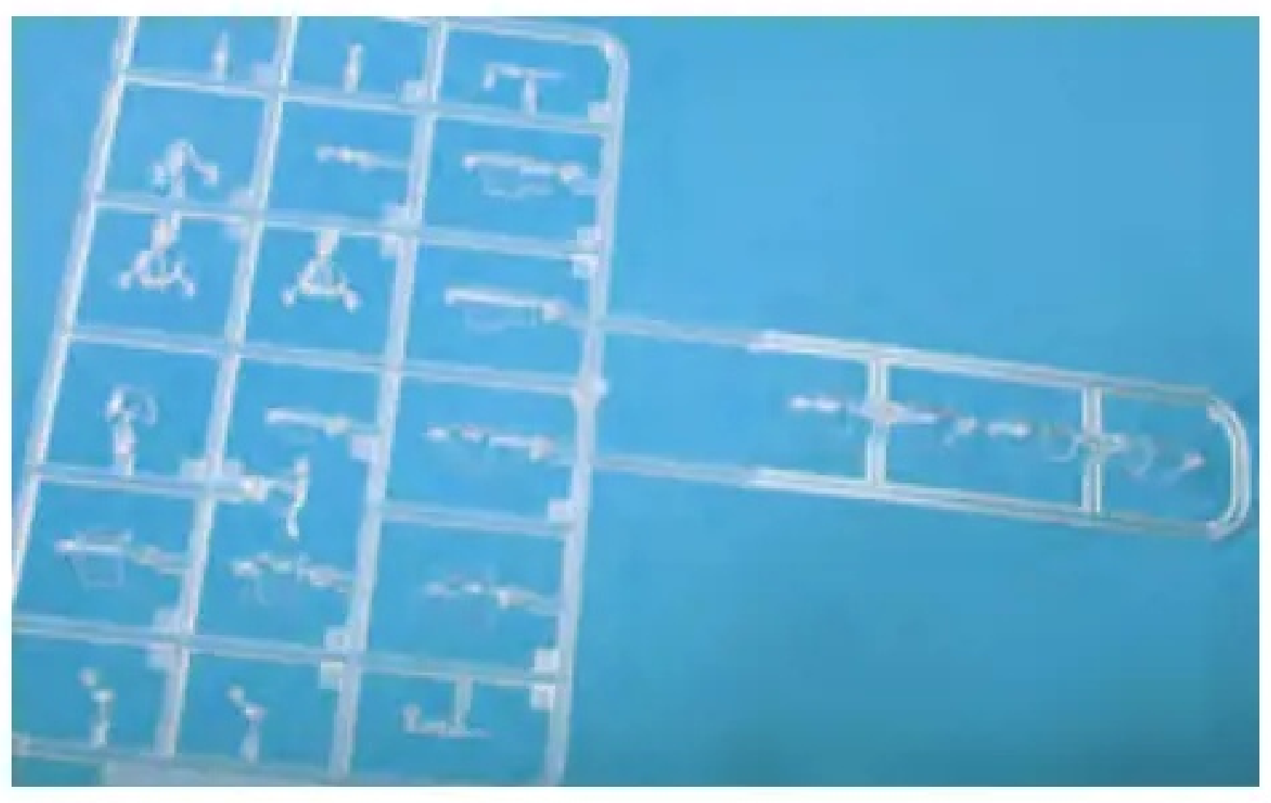
MODELLERS UNITED
Clear Acrylic Varnish
Aqua Gloss

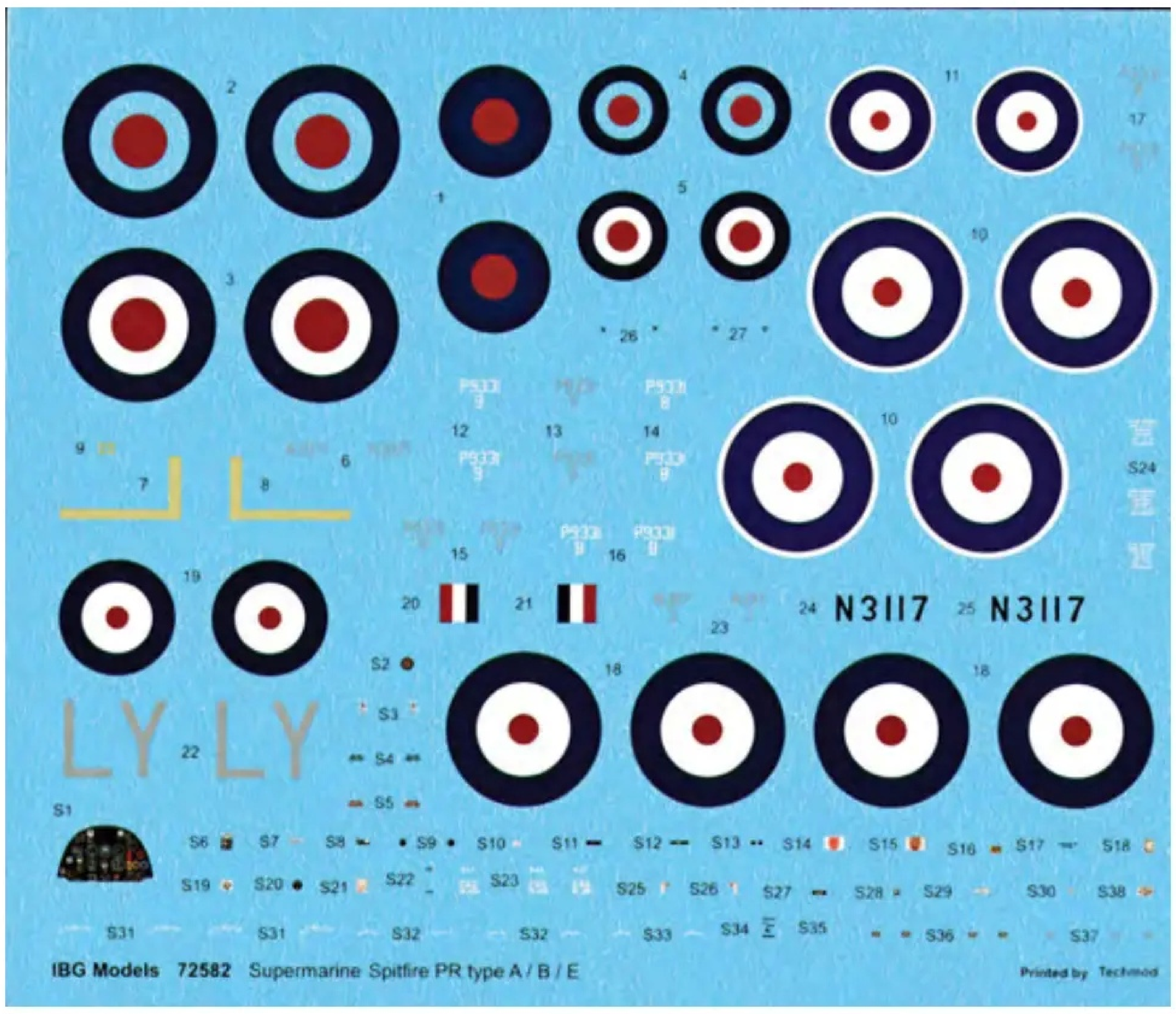
LEAD MASKS - WARNING

In last month's *AMW*, a contributor outlined a process for creating temporary masks using molten lead, which he had developed with the aid of protective clothing and equipment. We strongly urge readers to not try this method themselves, due to the dangers of inhaling lead fumes, and the risk of flash steam caused by the molten metal hitting the water and creating droplets that can spray upwards and outwards, resulting in scalding and/or metal burns. Safer methods for creating similar masks include salt crystals, Humbrol's Maskol fluid (or something similar) or pre-formed mottle masks.

IBG'S NEW-TOOL 1/72 PR SPITFIRE DEBUTS


IBG MODELS
Supermarine Spitfire PR Type A/B/E
1:72
72582





POLISH MANUFACTURER IBG Models caused quite a stir when it announced its intention to provide an extensive family of new-tool 1/72 Spitfires, concentrating on Marks I-VI, plus the Merlin-powered reconnaissance variants. The manufacturer has identified more than 20 sub-types that fall into this group and they will include airframes fitted with Vokes and Aboukir tropical filters.

The first kits are now available, comprising 72582 Spitfire PR Type A/B/E and a special 'Black Box' limited-edition, dual-kit offering of the Mk.I and Mk.II, branded Great Britain 1940 (72584). Here, we focus on the first kit.

Recce Spitfires, especially the early examples, have a certain cachet, so the appearance of new kits replicating these airframes has been hotly anticipated. Unsurprisingly, IBG has opted to employ generic runners for the most part, which means you'll receive a whole host of spare parts. Lift the lid and you'll be staggered at the sheer number of components, ostensibly for a single 1/72 Spitfire.

As mentioned, PR Type A/B/E sub-types can be depicted, with different wing camera fits. You receive eight grey styrene runners and two clear, plus 3D-printed resin mainwheels with weight effect. Alternative parts include five three-bladed propellers and a two-bladed unit, differently formatted seats and oil coolers, plus vertical camera equipment for other variants. There are also different spinners and the deeper chin cowling for the PR Type F. Also supplied are alternative port cockpit sidewalls, ejector (circular) and fishtail exhausts, three fuel tank covers and two instrument panels.

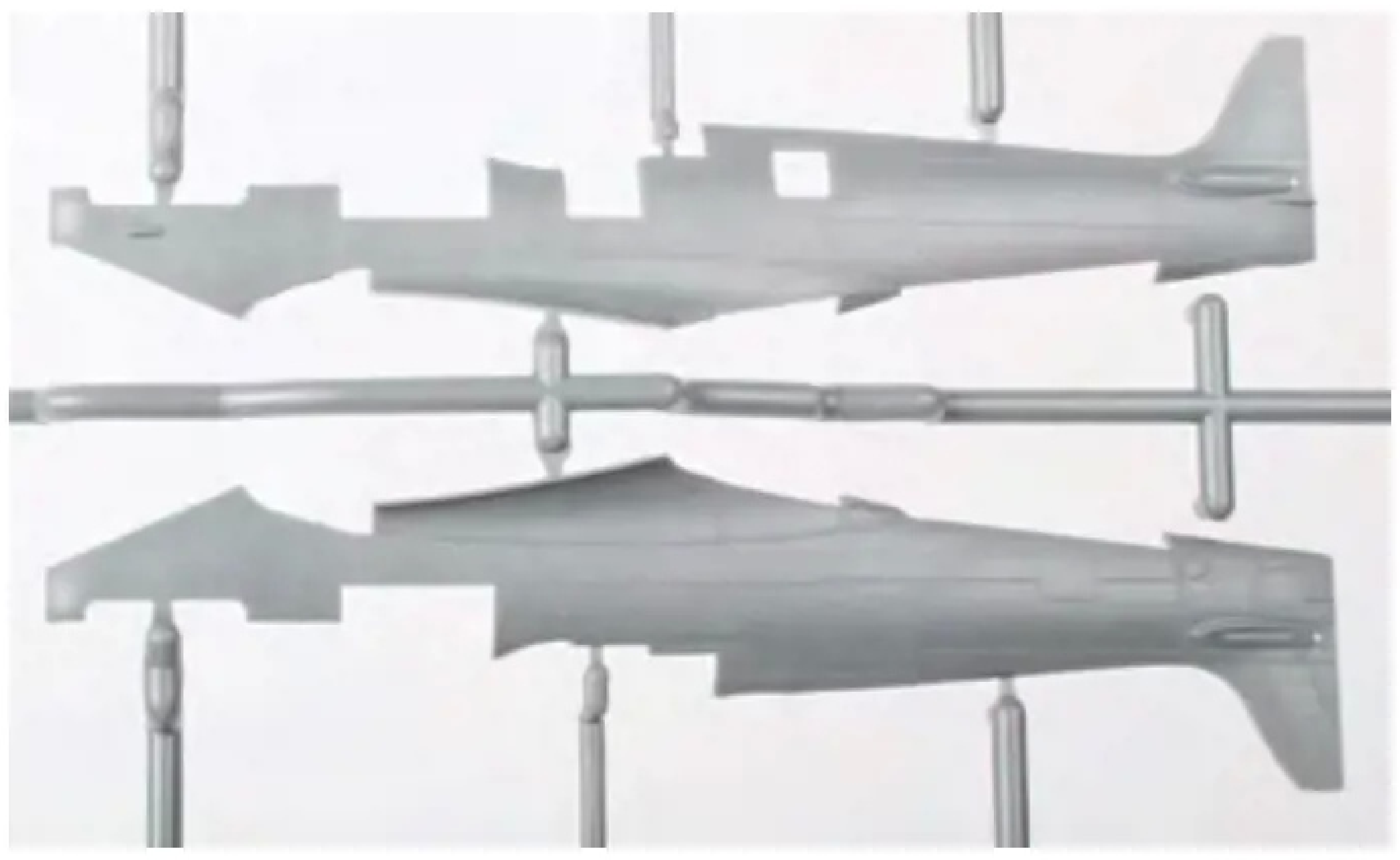
Panel line and rivet engraving is stunning and this is particularly evident on the wing parts. On that score, the machine-gun and cartridge ejection ports are depicted open, but will need to be filled for the recce versions. All flying control surfaces are moulded separately, while the radiator is a six-part unit with inner pipework and each mainwheel bay features full wall components, the frontmost also incorporating the firewall.

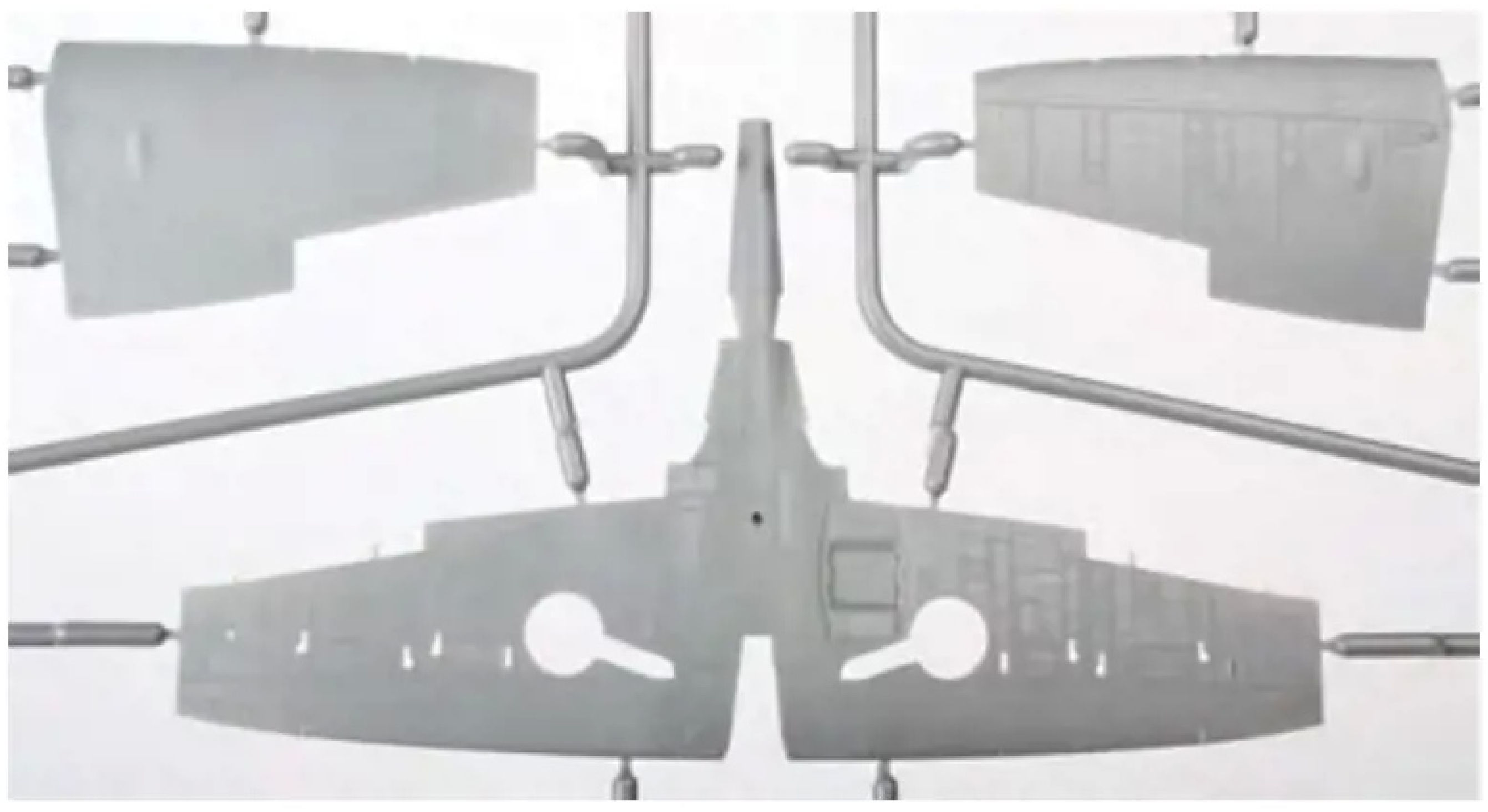
Colour scheme provision means there's the choice of de Havilland Type 5/21 or Rotol RX5/4 propellers. The way IBG has moulded the fuselage halves facilitates the replication of different sub-types, with cut-outs for the forward fuel tank cover and engine cowling, and the port half featuring the camera bay opening.

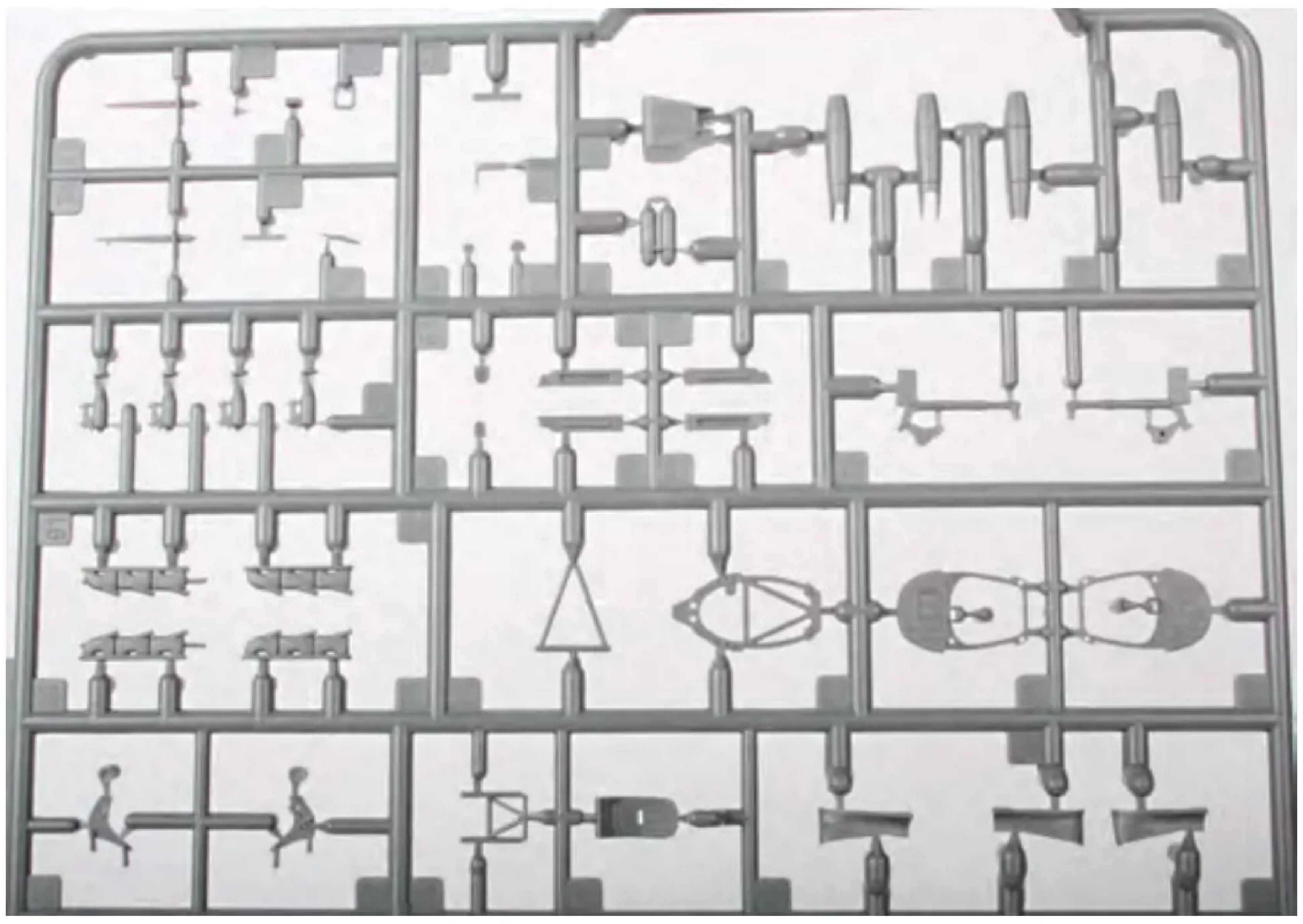
High refinement

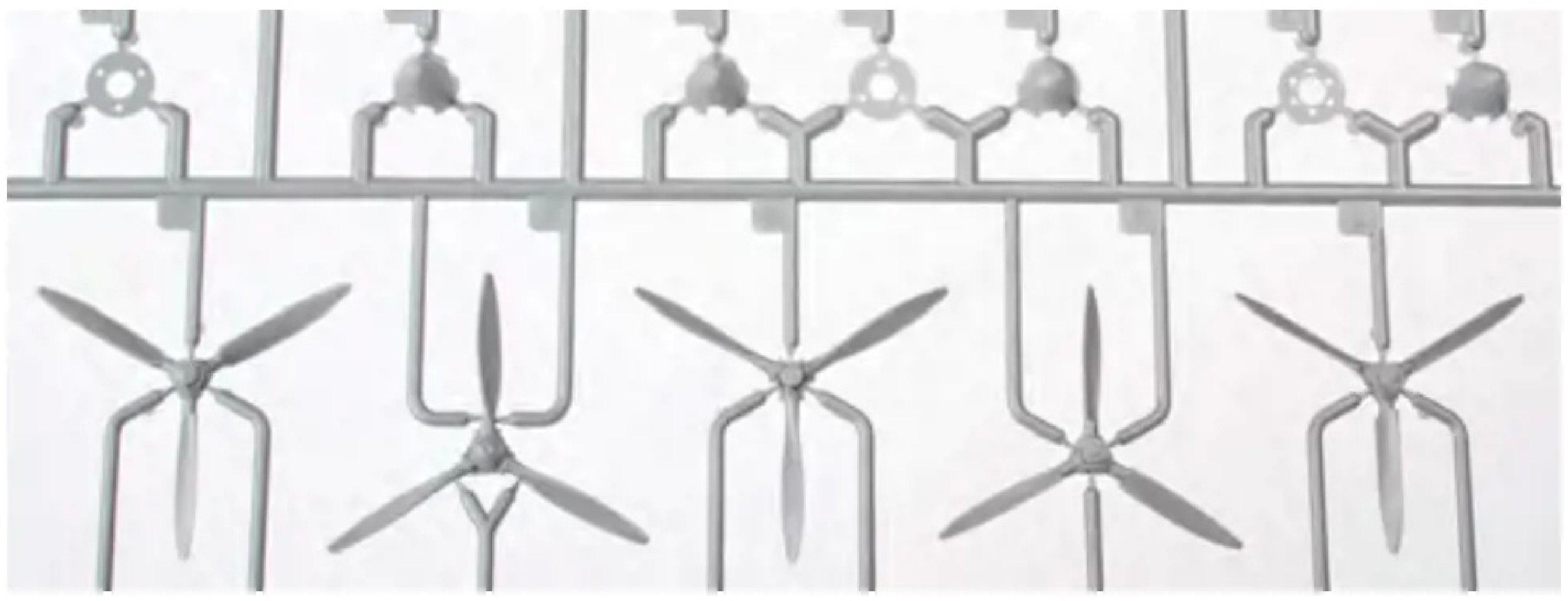
Cockpit detail is superb. The instrument panel and seat-support frame walls are properly to scale, and lightening holes in the latter are rendered as recesses. The three-piece seat has a separate flare rack and the sidewall inserts are beautifully detailed with framing and electrical boxes. Also supplied are upper and lower fuel tanks behind the cockpit, plus compressed air bottles, a gas cylinder and an accumulator for inside the fuselage. The voltage regulator is provided and IBG replaces the gunsight with a camera control box.

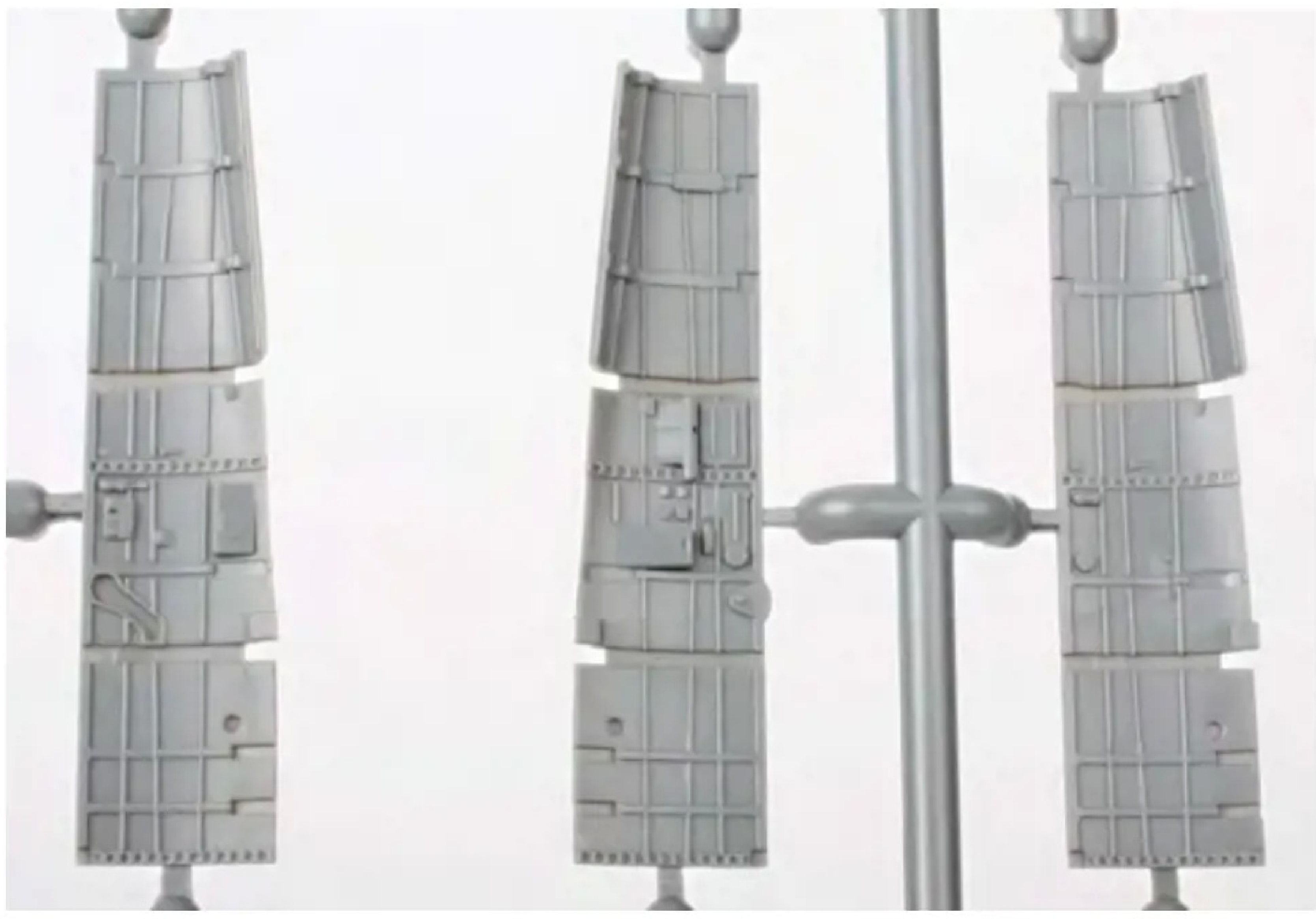
Enough clear parts are present to replicate open or closed cockpit glazing and, impressively, the side blisters for the canopy are moulded separately to ensure crisp boundaries. As if all this sumptuous detail wasn't enough, there's also a photo-etched (PE) brass fret carrying various components, such











as alternative seat harnesses, a brake lever and undercarriage up/down indicators, among other items relevant to future boxings.

There is a supreme level of refinement throughout this kit, exemplified by the delicate radio masts, rear cockpit frames and finely rendered undercarriage legs. However, this does mean that certain components are properly small, placing these Spitfire kits in the realm of the more experienced modeller. Notably, too, some of the spares include the port wing fuel tank of the Mk.IIa (LR) and smoke marker bombs on racks for the ASR Mk.IIc air-sea rescue variant.

The recce boxing provides four sets of markings representing three airframes, the main colours being PRU Blue, PRU Pink and Camotint (Sky):

- Spitfire I PR Type A, N3071, Special Survey Flight, Nancy, France, December 1939
- Spitfire I PR Type B, P9331/9, 212 Squadron, Meaux, near Paris, France, early June 1940
- Spitfire I PR Type E, N3117/3/LY, C Flight, 1 Photographic Reconnaissance Unit, RAF Heston, Middlesex, summer-autumn 1940
- Spitfire I PR Type B, N3117, 212 Squadron, Seclin, northern France, late March 1940

The kit decals are lovely… beautifully thin with gloss carrier film and rich colouring.

Spitfire recce variants seem to be the flavour of the month, what with the announcement of Kōtare's 1/32 PR Type A. If you favour smaller scales, though, IBG's kit provides sublime detail and versatility – good value, too, at €26 direct from www.ibg.com.pl

ARJAY HOBBIES NOW OPEN

ARJAY
HOBBIES

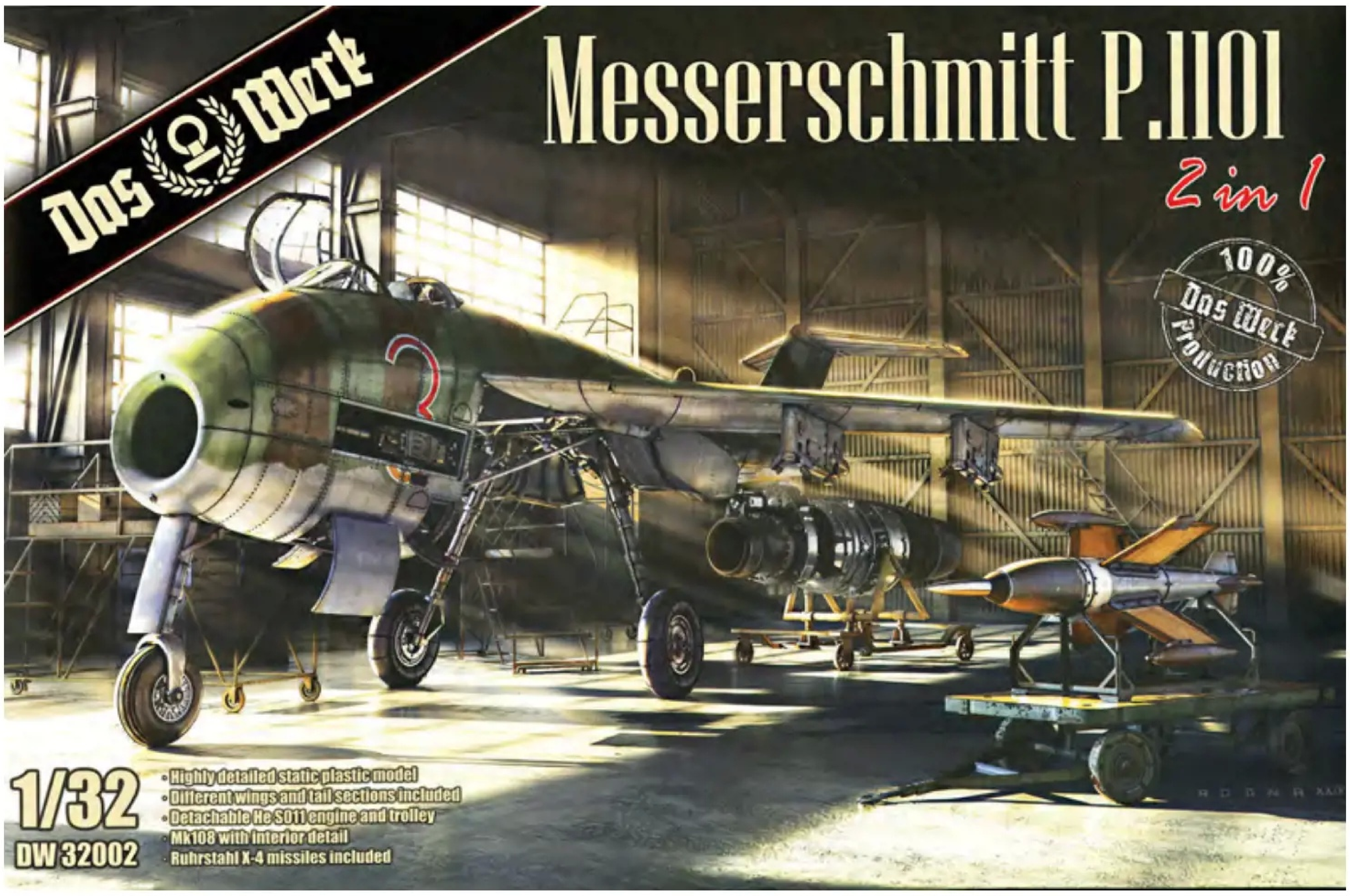
MODEL SHOP Arjay Hobbies is settling into its new home at Apsley House, High Street, Royal Wootton Basset, Wiltshire. This retail outlet is located just two miles from J16 of the M4 nd minutes from the REME base at the former RAF Lyneham. It has already welcomed keen customers from the local area and further afield.

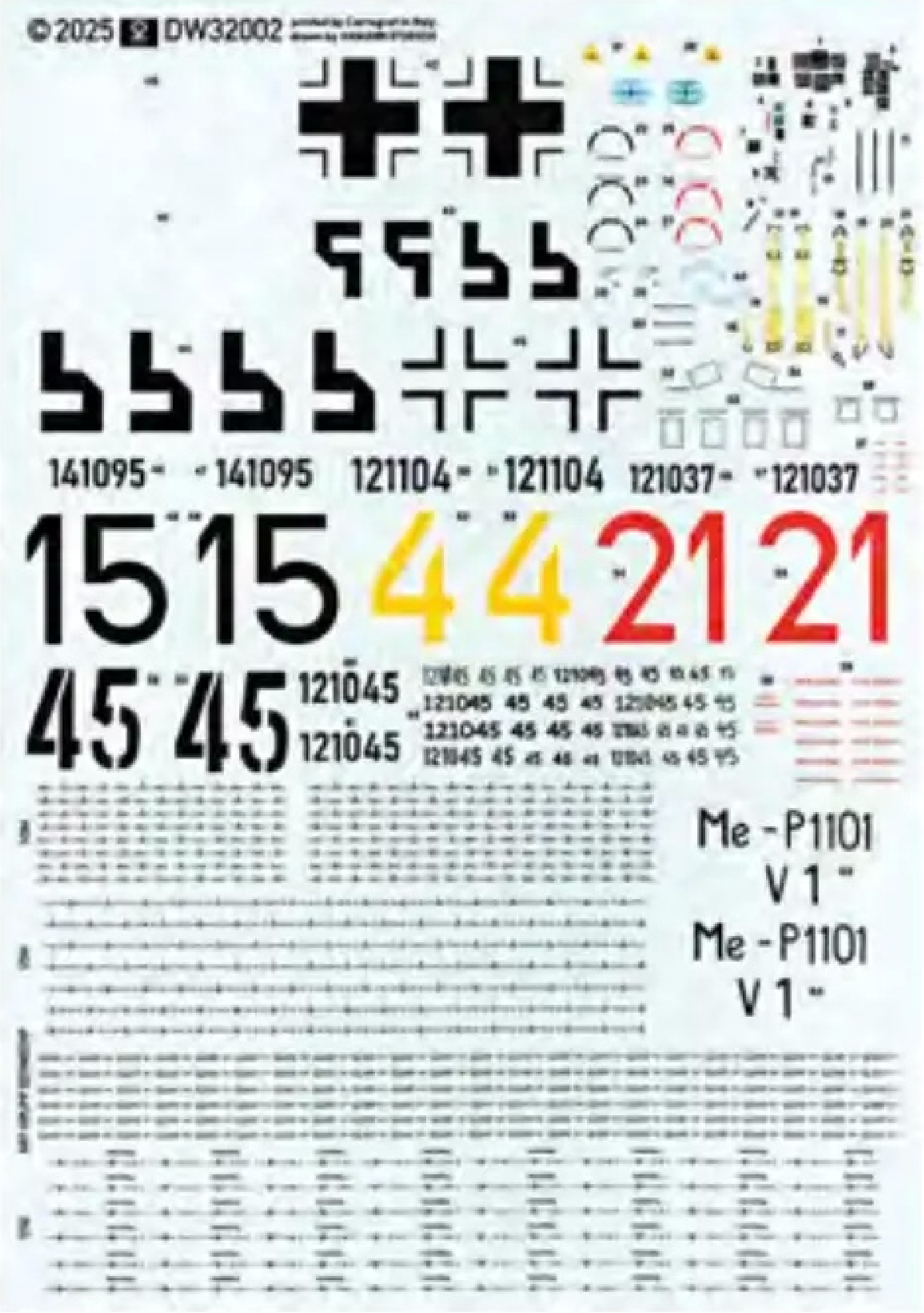
Proprietor Rich Reynolds has set out to offer carefully selected quality kits, which have reviewed well in the modelling media. Airfix, Tamiya and Hasegawa are just some of the brands available.

A thoughtful feature of Arjay Hobbies is the in-shop 'hobby hub' area, where modellers can sit and try products while enjoying a beverage in a friendly, community atmosphere. Building and airbrushing demos by experienced modellers will be a regular event.

Major modelling brands are on offer, alongside some of the more esoteric labels and a range of sundry accessories, tools, paints and the like. For further details or questions on products, telephone: 07835 461682

WORLD'S FIRST 1/32 STYRENE MESSERSCHMITT P.1101 FROM DAS WERK

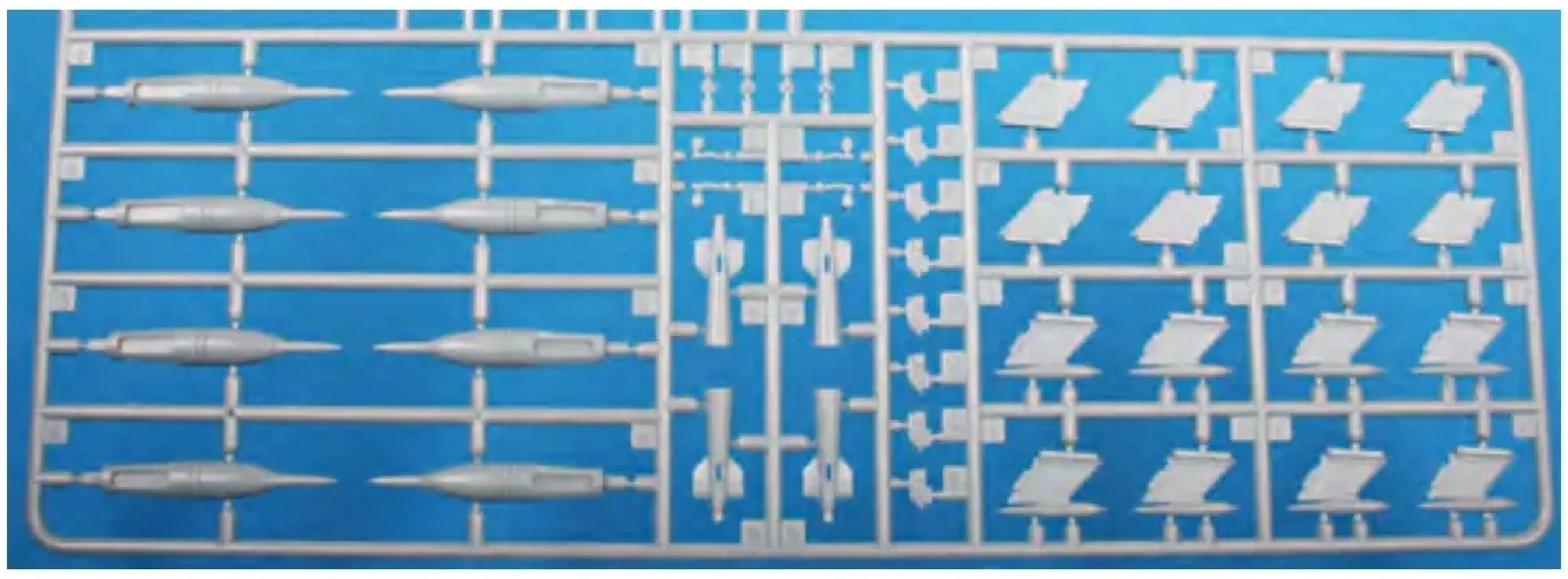

Das Werk
Messerschmitt P.1101
2 in 1
100% Das Werk Production
1/32
DW 32002
•Highly detailed static plastic model
•Different wings and tail sections included
•Detachable He S011 engine and trolley
•Mk108 with interior detail
•Ruhrstahl X-4 missiles included


©2025 DW32002
141095 141095 121104 121104 121037 121037
15 15 4 4 21 21
45 45 121045 121045
Me-P1101 V1
Me-P1101 V1

FANS OF German experimental aircraft will love Das Werk's new 1/32 Messerschmitt P.1101, the first styrene kit of the type in this scale.

Kit DW32002 has real presence and enables modellers to build the actual prototype as discovered by the Allies at Oberammergau, Germany, in 1945 , sporting the conventional tail and modified Me 262 wing. However, a larger 'production' wing, T-tail and appropriate decals are also supplied, so you could also portray one of three notional airframes.

The box holds eight medium grey styrene runners and one clear frame, along with a profiled nose weight to prevent tail-sitting. It's an absolute detail bonanza, as there is an entire, beautifully rendered engine, which can be displayed on a separate handling trolley or fitted to the airframe.



Overall panel line and rivet engraving is subtle and certainly not too over-emphasised.

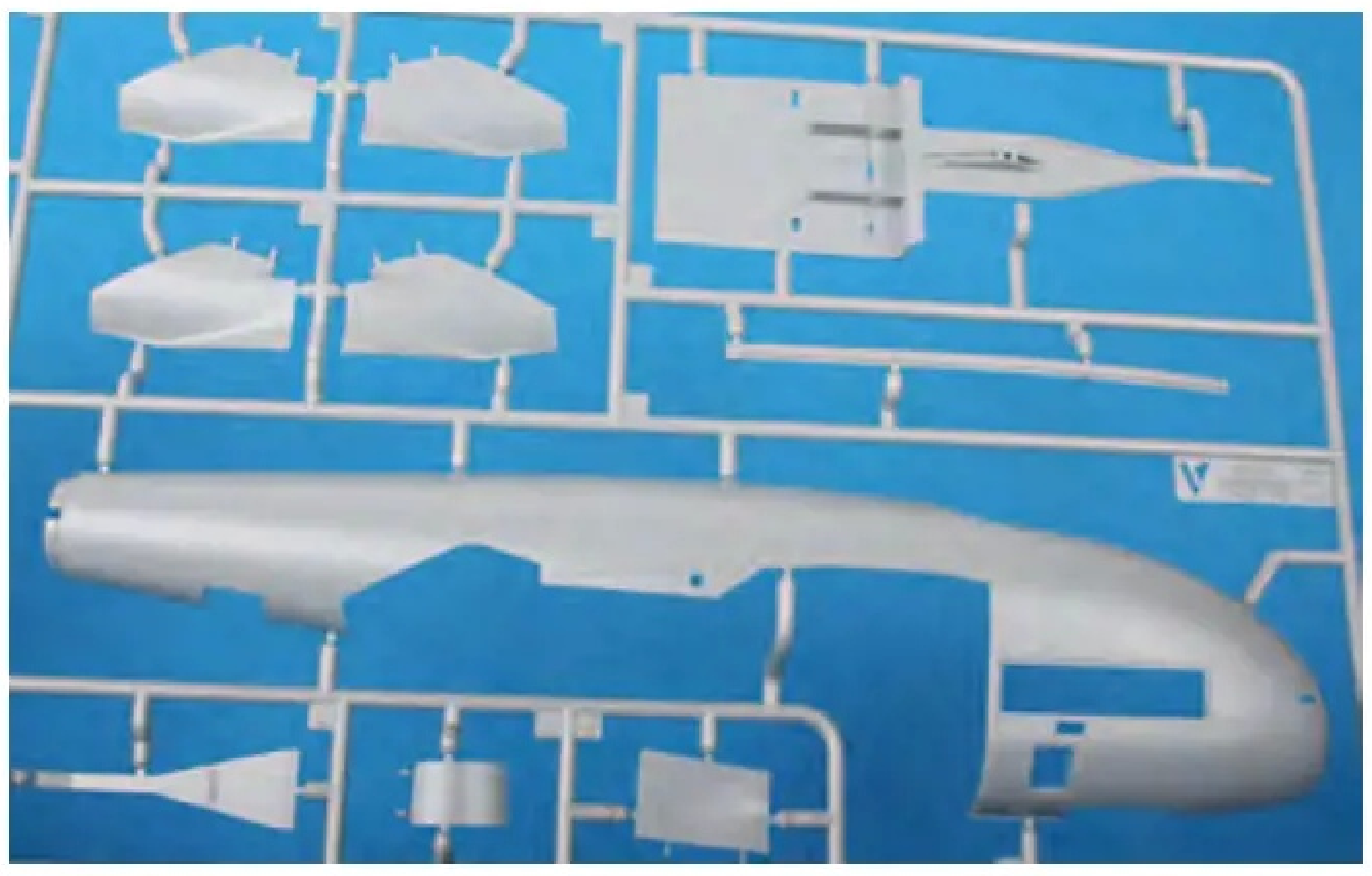
The cockpit is reasonably well appointed and is formed on top of the halved nose air intake. Individual side consoles are supplied, with raised and recessed detail, while you can also fit either Me 163 Komet or Me 262 multi-part seats. No harness is provided in styrene or photo-etched (PE) brass, this being left to decals to replicate the belt lengths and fasteners. Alternative instrument panels are present, one featuring moulded dial detail, while the other has flat dials intended to accept various decals. Other 'office' features include a control column, rudder pedals, a floor footplate and a circuit-breaker panel. Note that later in the build, you add a gunsight and armoured glass panel (both clear parts).

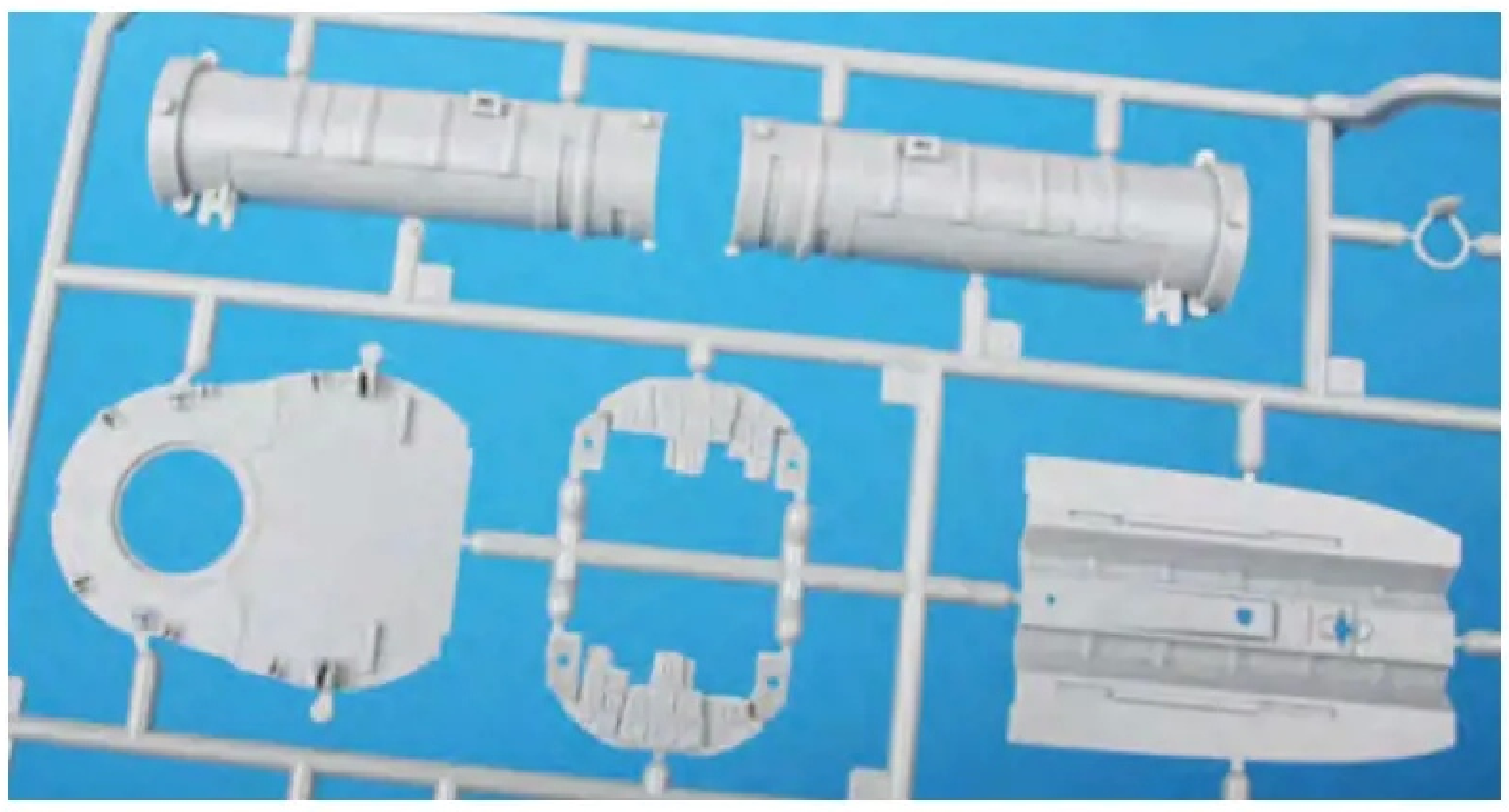
Das Werk provides two well-rendered MK 108 30mm cannon, on which you can pose the breech covers open or closed. Further construction involves the detailed mounting plate for the undercarriage legs and engine, this entire sub-assembly attaching to the cockpit rear bulkhead before positioning inside the fuselage halves. This long mounting panel is replete with fine detail, featuring raised rivets, structural strengtheners and convincing replication of flexible lining materials.

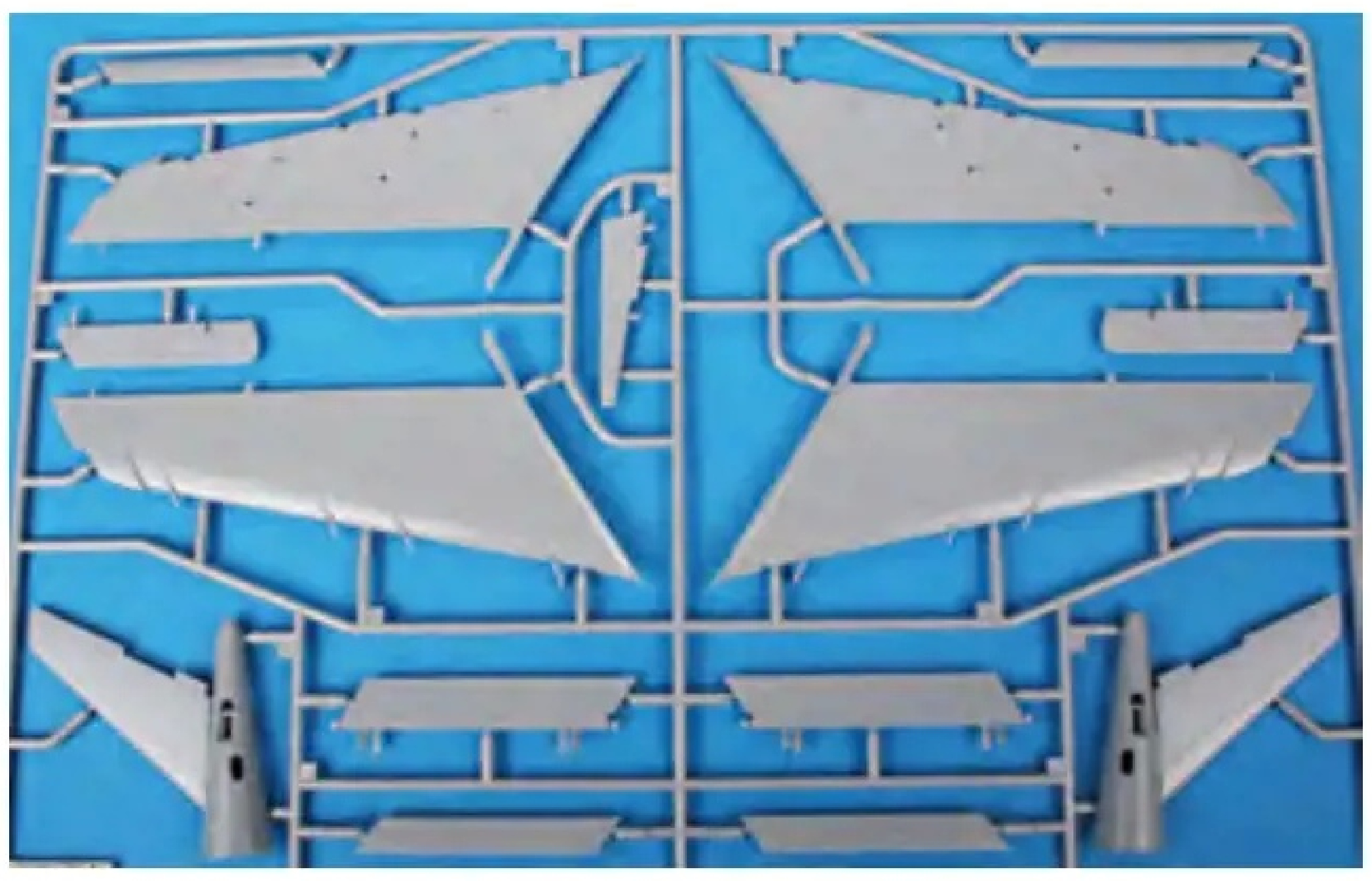
The undercarriage legs are sturdy yet well detailed and have separate torque scissors, but the instructions demand they are attached before the closure of the fuselage. They feature separate retraction jacks, while the nose leg has individual door linkages. An excellent job has been done with the balloon-style tyres, which are halved and have an individual hub piece for each side.

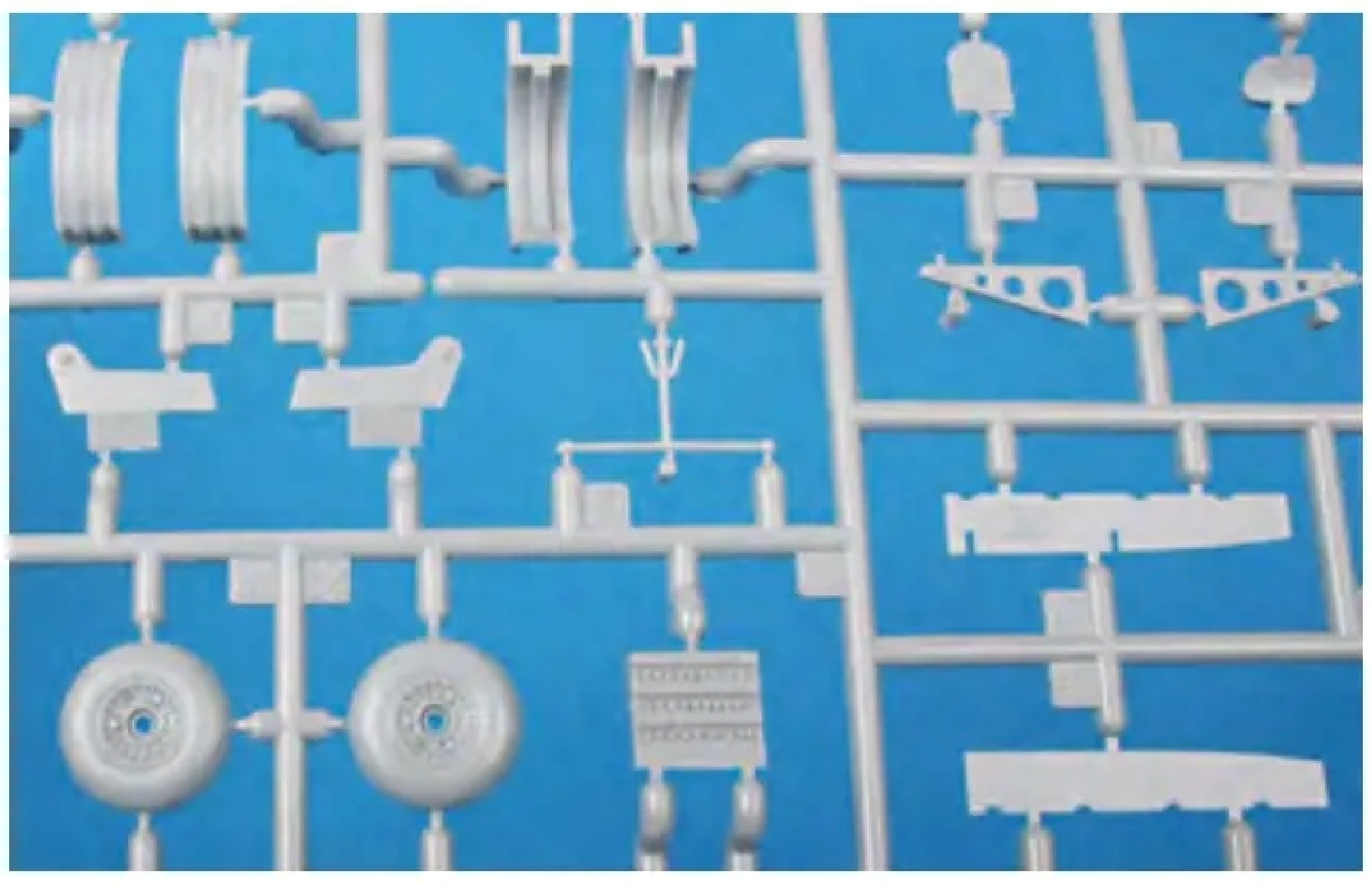
Due to the kit's modular nature, the separate empennage comes in two layouts: the 'standard' horizontal and vertical stabilisers and the 'production' unit with the T-tail. Meanwhile, as mentioned, there are two sets of mainplanes. The modified Me 262 wings have a single leading-edge slat, while two separate slat sections equip the 'service' wing. Separate flaps are also provided and you can pose these up or down via a clever addition of two sets of spigots. Das Werk's three piece cockpit glazing is admirably clear and you can pose the canopy section open or closed.

Some of the build stage order is unconventional, one example





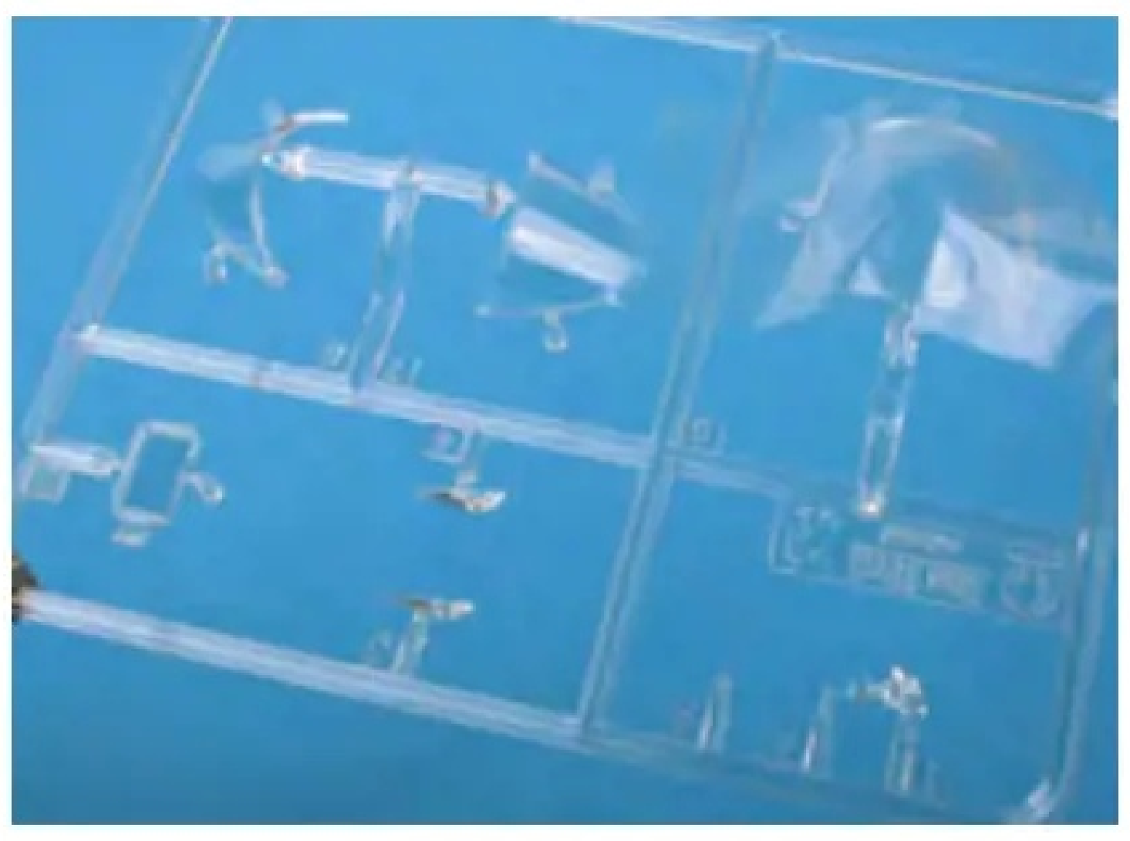




being that the construction and fitting of the Ruhrstahl X-4 missiles is done in the middle of the proceedings. The X-4s themselves comprise 11 parts each and they'll look splendid once built.

The decals are printed superbly, having thin, gloss carrier film and good colour density. Swastikas are segmented and there's a useful array of stencilling. The scheme options are:

- P1101 V1, Messerschmitt research facility, Oberammergau, Bavaria, early 1945
- Wk Nr 121045/Black 45 (notional), Messerschmitt factory, Oberammergau, Bavaria, July 1945
- Wk Nr 121045/Black 15 (notional), unknown unit, Strassfeld, Germany, spring 1946
- Wk Nr 121037/Red 21 (notional), unknown unit, Altegrabow, Germany, early 1946



Das Werk's P.1101 is a surprising release but is beautifully executed and worthy of this larger scale. The choice of liveries is well considered, while the decal quality is such that the markings should look highly convincing if the usual varnish and application protocols are followed. The kit is brought into the UK by importer Albion Hobbies (www.albionhobbies.com) and retails for £59.95, which is excellent value.

ALL-NEW 1/48 LEDUC 022 FROM MASTER-X

master.x2@centrum.cz
MASTER-X
www.master-x.wz.cz
LIMITED EDITION
Leduc 022-01
resin model kit
MX 4823
1/48

France's 1950s experimental supersonic ramjet aircraft, the Leduc 022, has been kitted in 1/48-scale resin by Czech firm Master-X.

Until now there has been no kit of this type in the scale, making this new-tool kit (MX 4823) a treat for experienced modellers, as it assembles entirely from cast resin components and displays impressive levels of refinement. Besides the main fuselage halves, which have interior frame/stringer rendering, there are two separate Ziploc bags of parts, plus a small decal sheet, photo-etched (PE) brass fret and printed acetate sheet. External panel-line and rivet engraving is supremely neat, and a clear resin component is provided to replicate the pilot's unorthodox plexiglass section.

In the cockpit, a PE instrument panel combines with the provided acetate, and resin backing. The bulkhead also incorporates the annular vanes of the air intake, but these need thin casting flash to be removed. Arguably the most impressive part is that of the ramjet 'cone', with its exquisitely rendered concentric layers being replicated beautifully. Meanwhile, the undercarriage doors feature a modicum of inner surface detail and the wheels are cast neatly.

Markings are sparse, as on the real airframe 022-01 as piloted by Jean Serrail and Yvan Littolf during 1957. They consist of 'RENE LEDUC' titles and '01' serials for the vertical stabiliser, plus French tricolour bands. Any modeller experienced in constructing resin kits should have no trouble with this model, and while not exactly cheap at €100 the result will be a handsome replica of a fascinating (and pioneering) experimental type not previously offered in this scale. It's available direct from Master-X (https://master-x/vz.cx))

ALBION ALLOYS
Precision products for craft and hobby
NOW DISTRIBUTE
SMS PAINT
SMS
THE SCALE MODELLERS SUPPLY

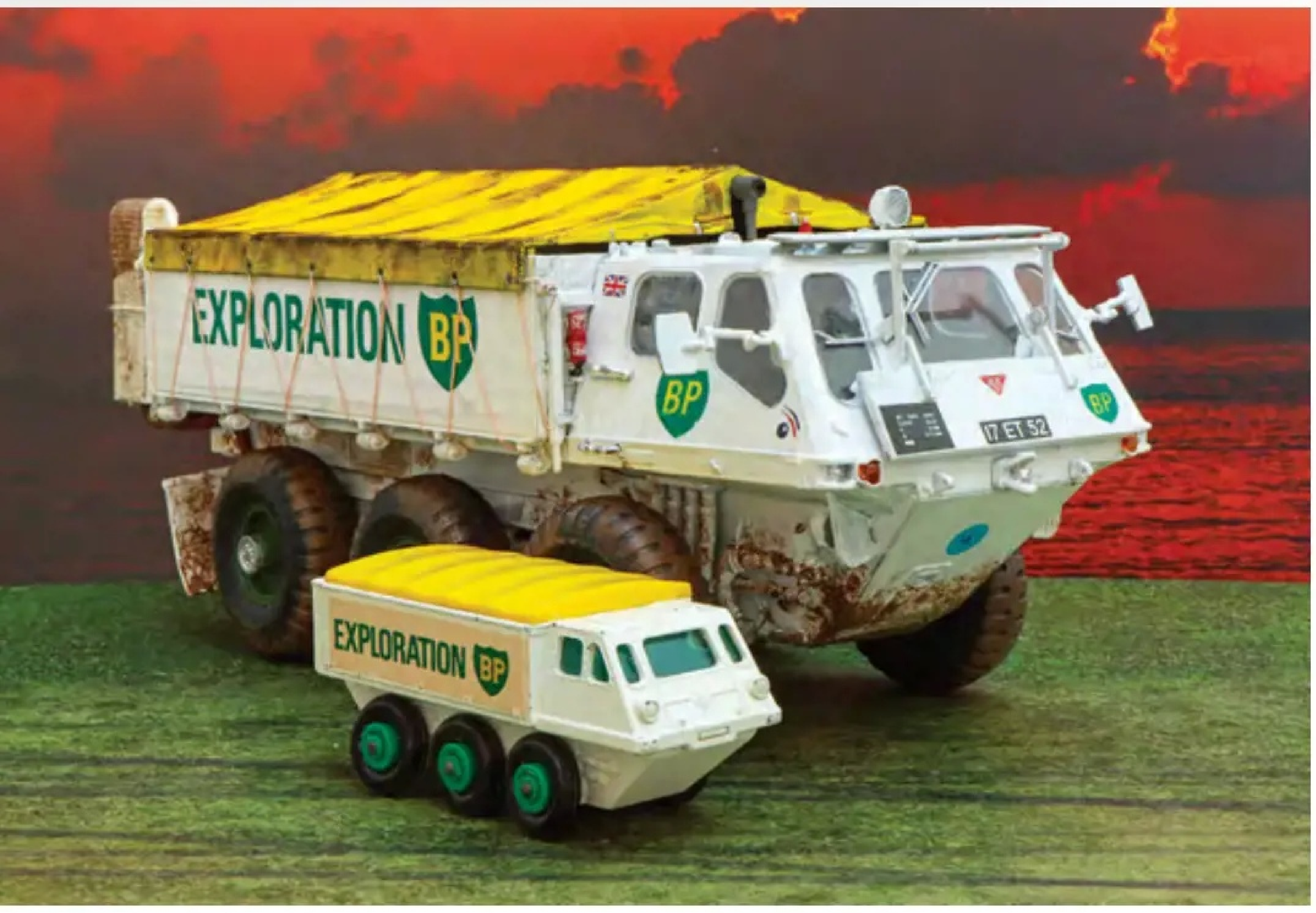
- Acrylic Lacquer - Use straight from the bottle
- Specially Formulated for the air brush
- Super high quality and pigment density
- Get expert results with minimum effort
- Apply in light coats at 12-15 psi

Made by the Modeller,
For the Modeller

Contact us for details of your nearest UK dealer.
Trade enquiries also welcome.
01202 511232
sales@albionalloys.co.uk
www.albionhobbies.com

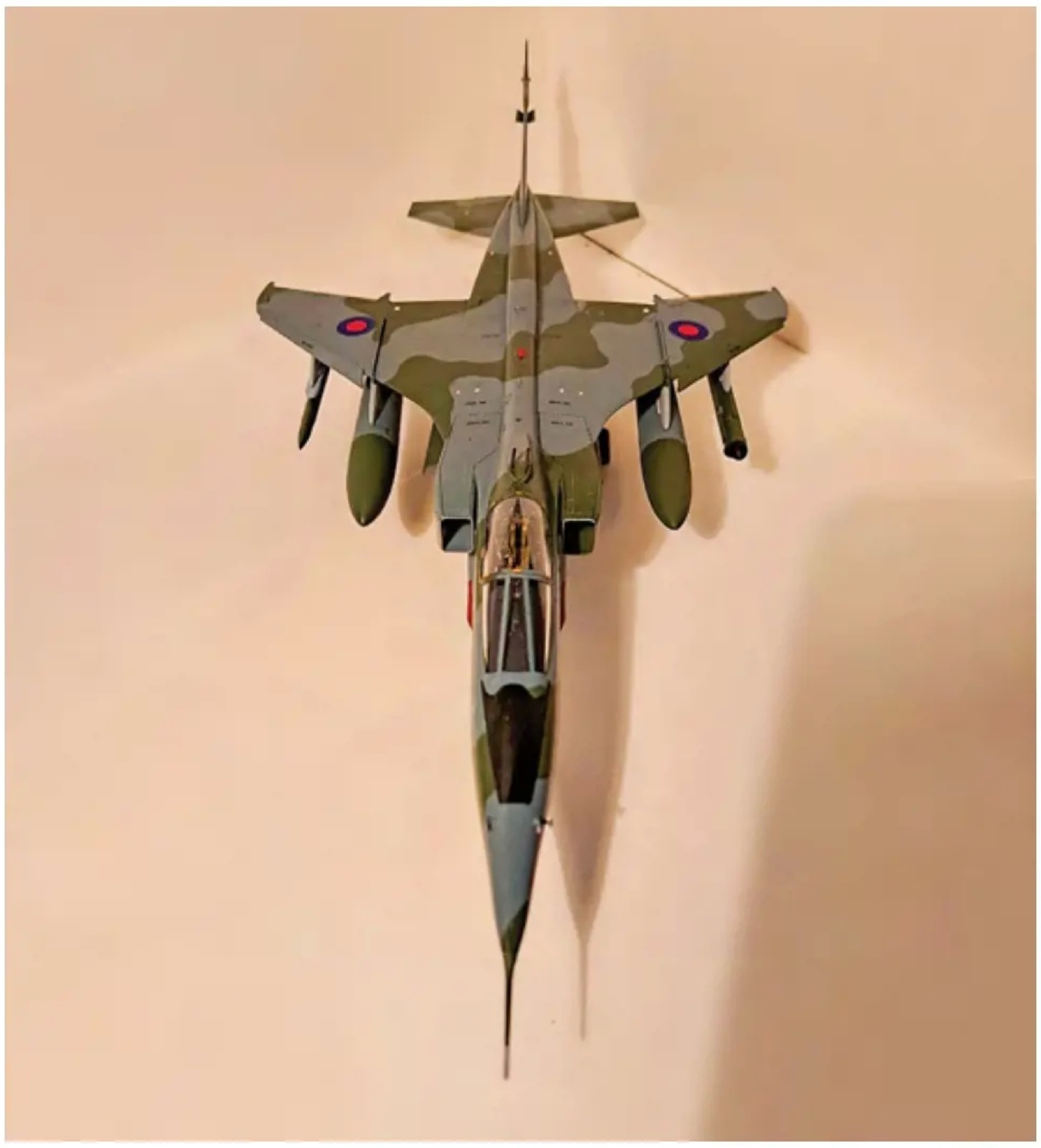
DISPLAY CASE

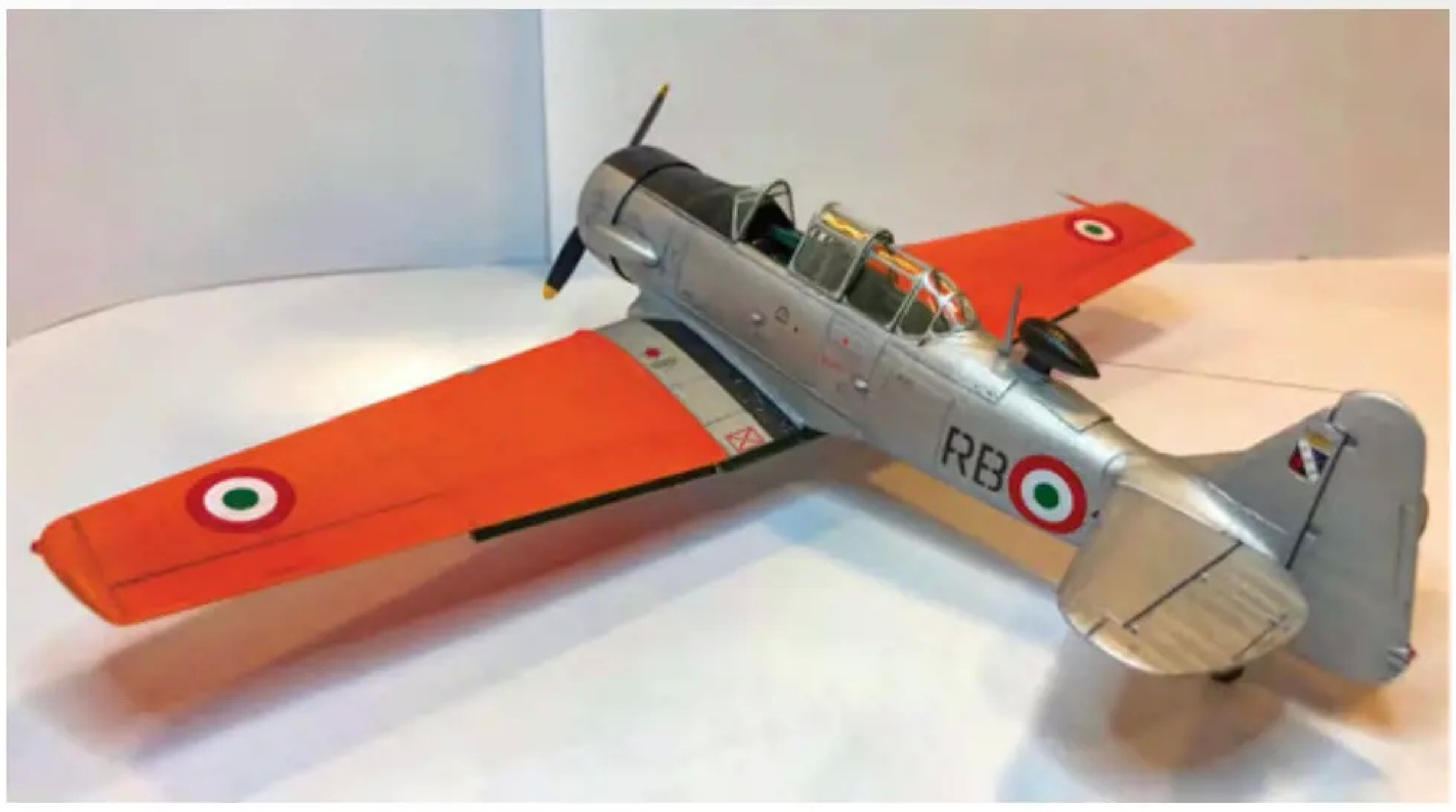
Inspiration comes from many sources, as shown by this month's selection of readers' builds



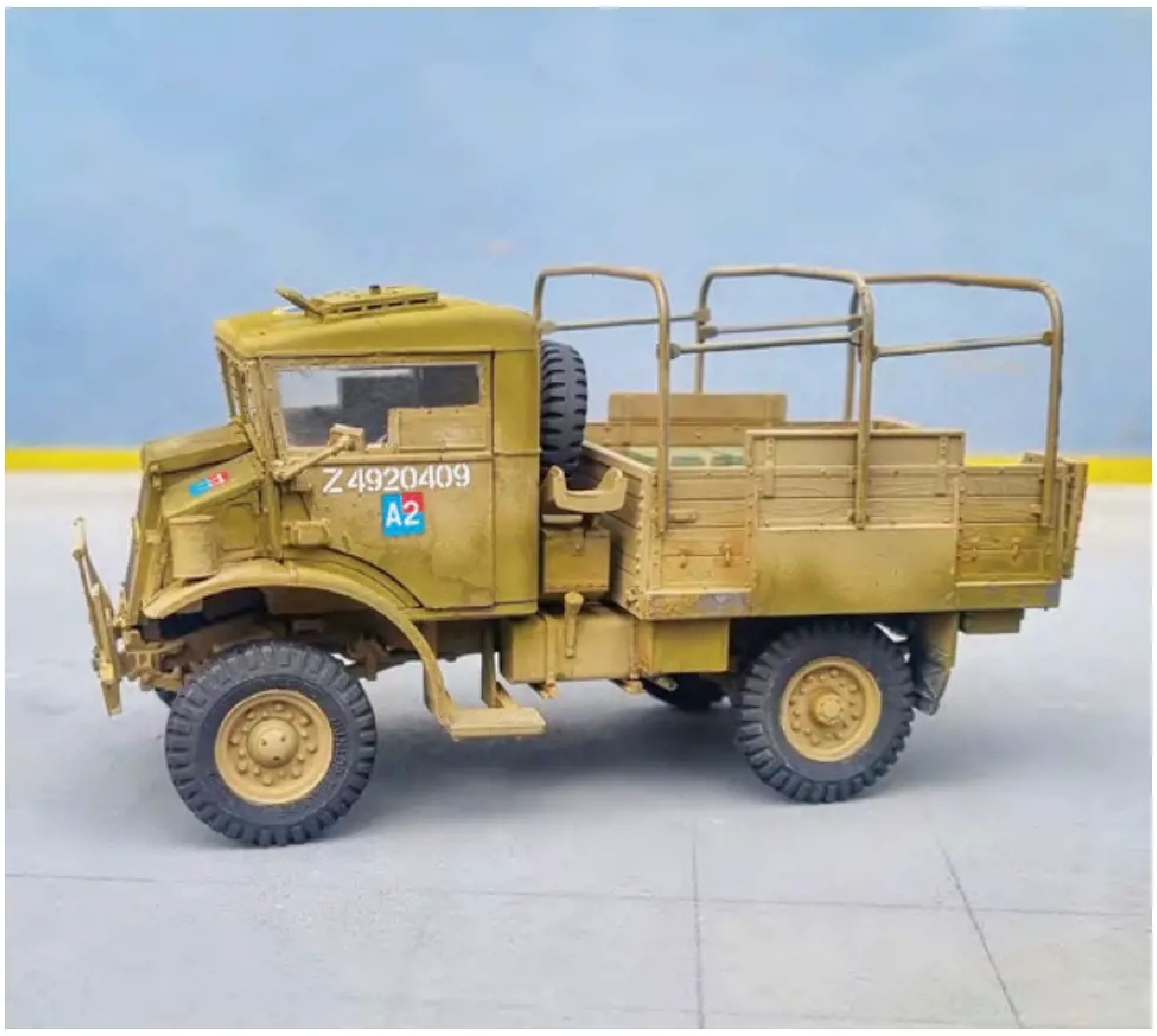
▲ Ian Surridge enjoyed building Airfix's new-tool 1/35 Stalwart so much, he decided to get a second and replicate a favourite childhood Matchbox toy in the form of a BP-liveried exploration vehicle. Here are both the inspiration and finished model.

▼ Airfix's 1/48 SEPECAT Jaguar GR.1/GR.1A was greeted with delight by many modellers, with many quickly adding it to their build lists, including Will Adams, who finished his as a 54 (F) Squadron GR.1 airframe. He hand-painted the wraparound camouflage, and the only addition to the kit was an aftermarket 3D-printed Martin-Baker Mk.9 ejection seat from Inside The Armour.





▲ Often, inspiration for a build – despite any potential accuracy issues in a given kit – comes from strikingly coloured schemes, as Ioannis Grammatikos discovered with an Italian 1/48 Harvard Mk.II. While the kit itself was considered more of a hybrid between the Mk.II and Mk.IV variants, with a dash of T-6G Texan thrown into the mix, it was the gorgeous bright wing tones that attracted his attention. Extra detail was added courtesy of an Eduard aftermarket photo-etched metal set plus small amounts of scratch-building, but the real fun was in the painting – using Tamiya acrylics for this project.



▲ There was a hint of nostalgia for Colin Taylor when building Italeri's 1/35 Chevrolet CMP 15cwt truck, as he'd built the Airfix boxing back in 1980. This model represented a vehicle that was used in the Italian Campaign, and was finished using Humbrol enamels, with 187 Matt Stone being the closest he could find for the 'Light Mud' tone used during that period. The identification roundel was painted, as the decals were the wrong colour, while the wing mirrors were glazed using metallic confetti for the reflective surfaces.

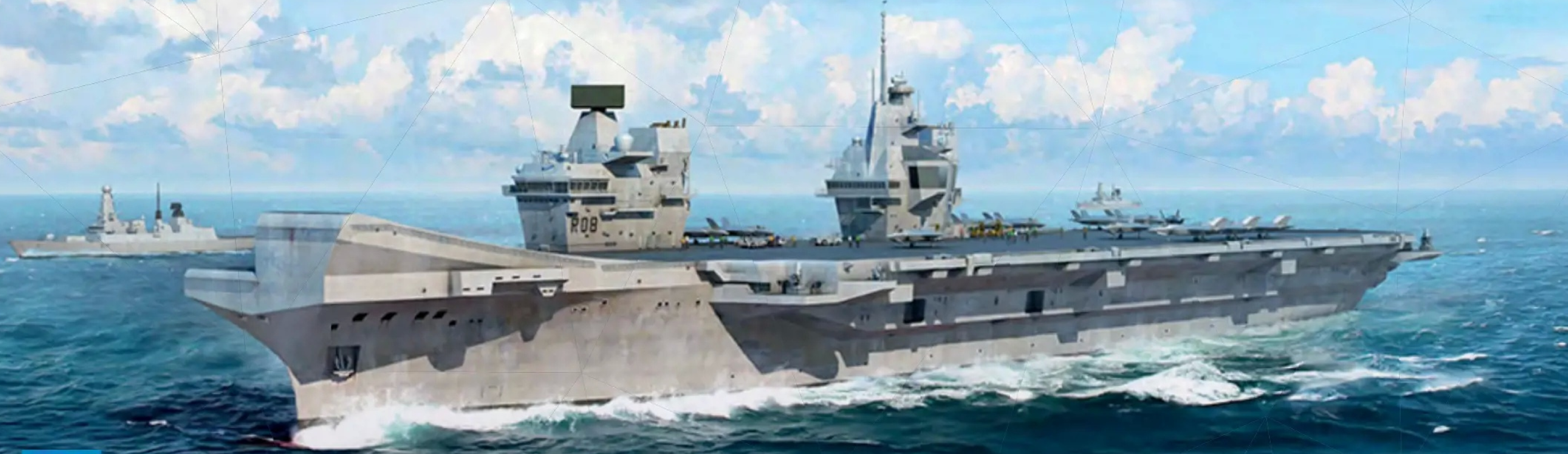
Submit YOUR project!

Want to feature your recently finished project in *AMW*? Send us a high-quality photo of your model against a white background and tell us about any aftermarket products or special techniques to: **stuart.fone@keypubblishing.com**

Plastic model kits

BACHMANN
Europe plc
Quality Since 1833
Official UK Distributors

available from your Bachmann stockist



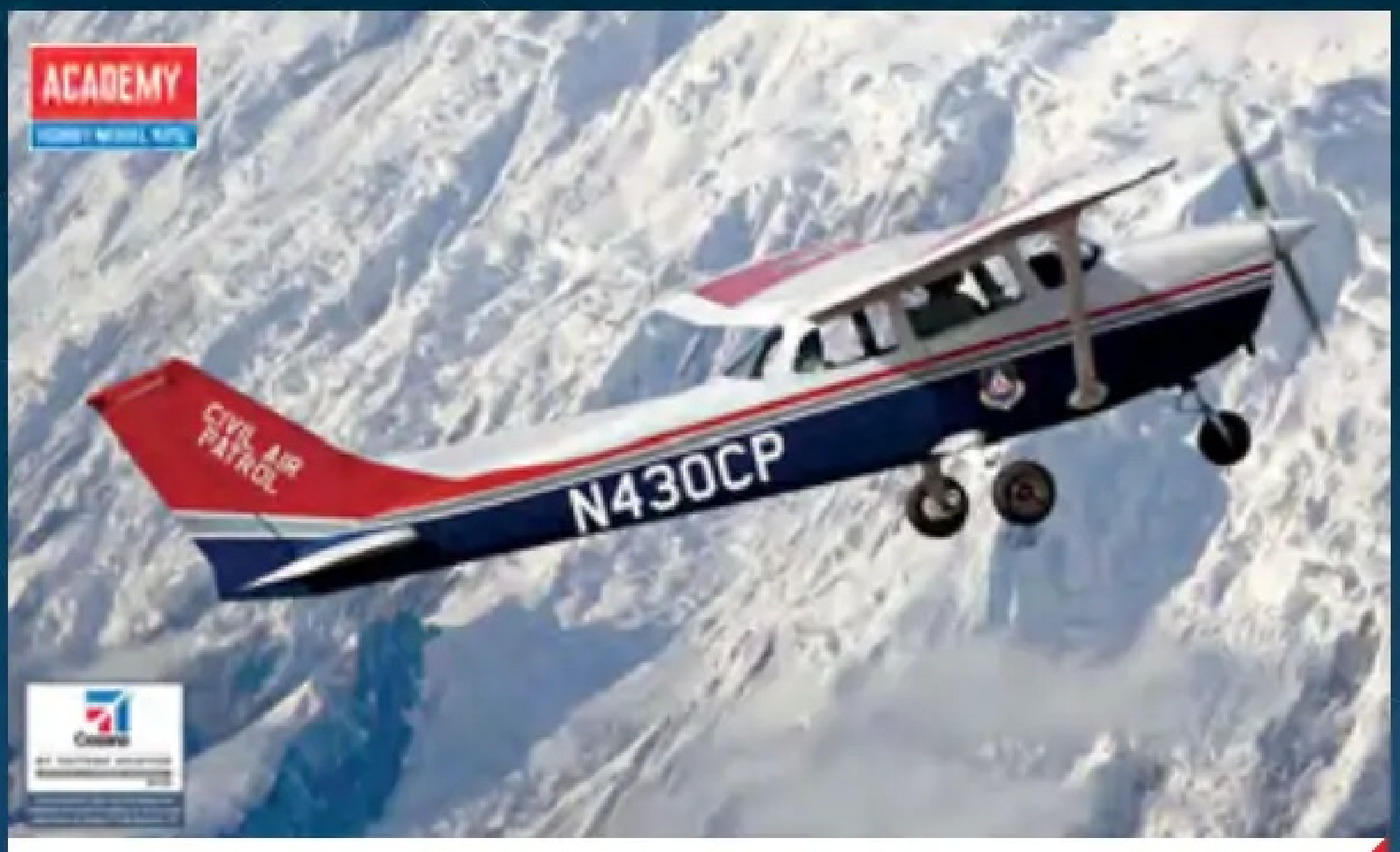
Royal Navy HMS Queen Elizabeth R08 Aircraft Carrier PKTM06751 **1:700**

HMS Queen Elizabeth (R08) is the lead ship of the Royal Navy's latest class of aircraft carriers, the Queen Elizabeth Class—the largest warships ever built in Britain, displacing 65,000 tonnes. Assembled at Rosyth Dockyard by Babcock Marine and commissioned in 2017, the carrier operates F-35B Lightning II joint strike fighters, and Merlin and Wildcat helicopters, from a distinctive ski-jump flight deck. It features integrated electric propulsion, advanced radar systems, and close-in defences including Phalanx and 30 mm guns. Sister vessel Prince of Wales shares the same core design.

Queen Elizabeth's maiden active duty came in 2021 as flagship of the global Carrier Strike Group deployment Operation FORTIS—a demonstration of the UK's strategic reach and significance in modern naval power.

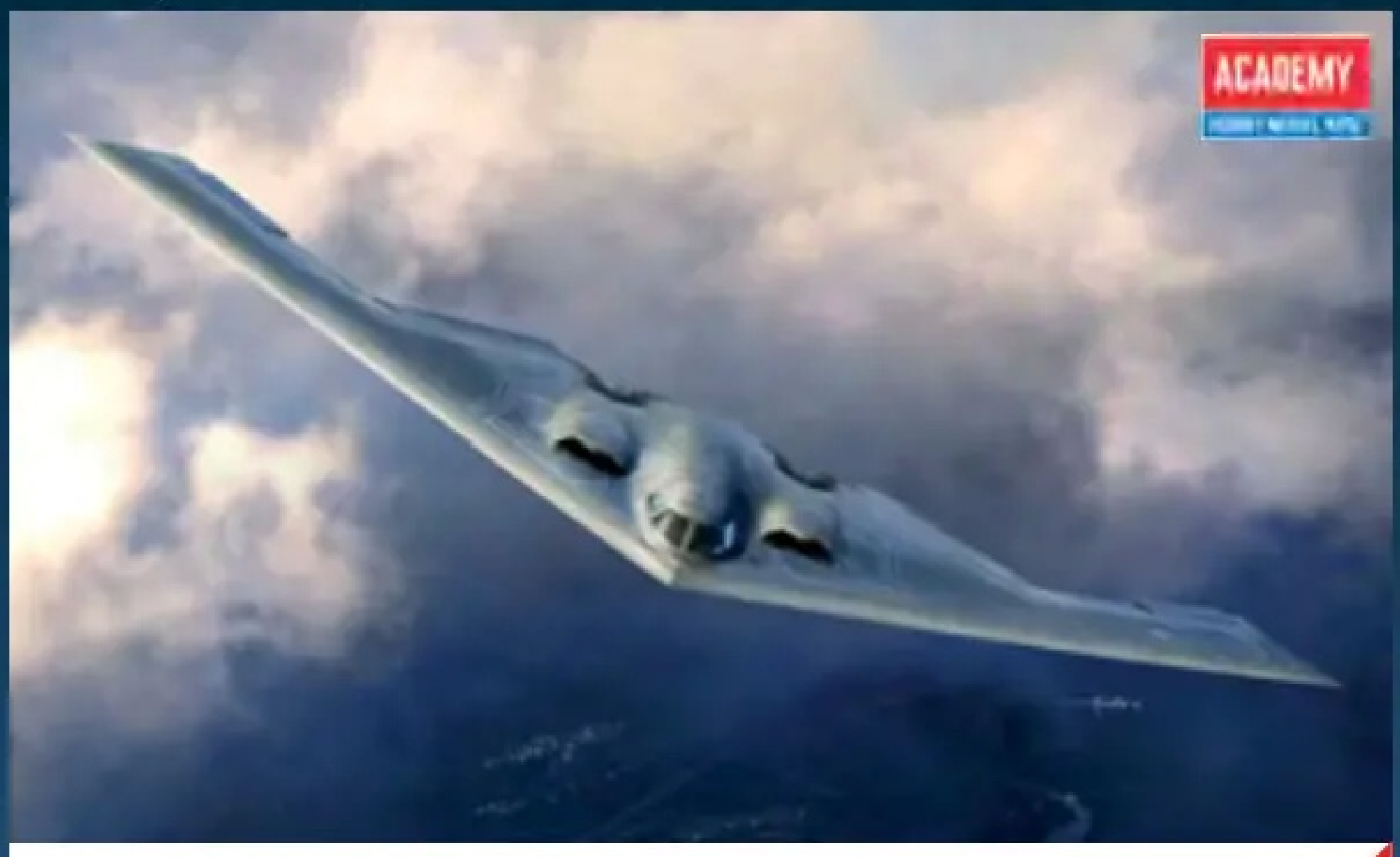
26 sprues, single-piece hull, decks. Photo-etch parts included. Aircraft wing includes F-35 (6 pcs) and EH-101 (6 pcs).
L: 400 mm, W: 105.2 mm, Total parts 380+.

COMING SOON


ACADEMY
CIVIL AIR PATROL
N430CP

US Civil Air Patrol Cessna 172 Skyhawk Light Aircraft PKAY12367 **1:48**

NEW



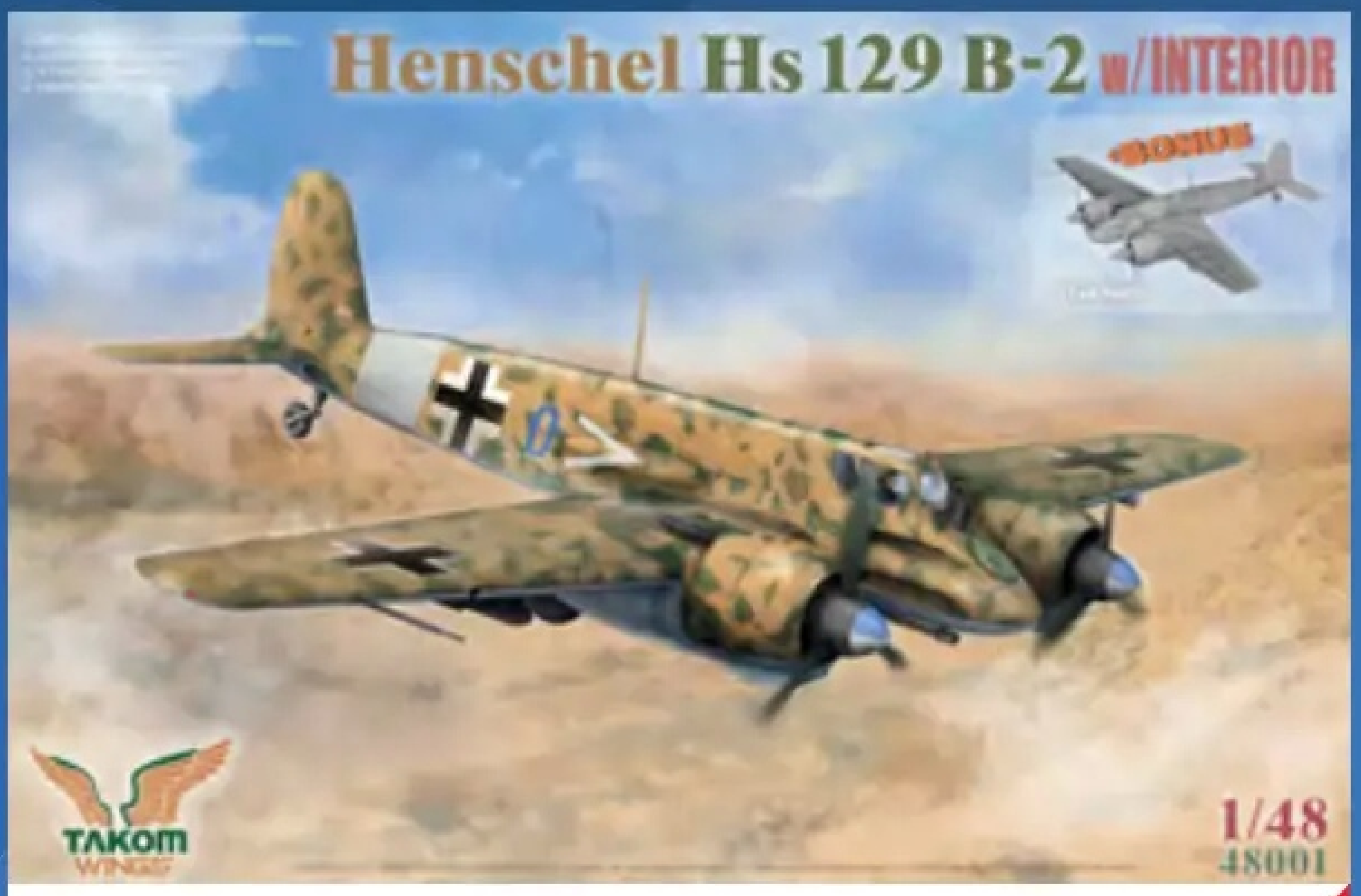
US Air Force B-2A Stealth Bomber PKAY12645 **1:144**

NEW

M51A2 5-TON DUMP GUN TRUCK
PEACE MAKER
AFV CLUB
1/35 SCALE
AF35351

US Army M51A2 5-ton 6x6 Dump Gun Truck "Peace Maker" PKAF35351 **1:35**

NEW


Henschel Hs 129 B-2 w/INTERIOR
TAKOM
1/48
48001

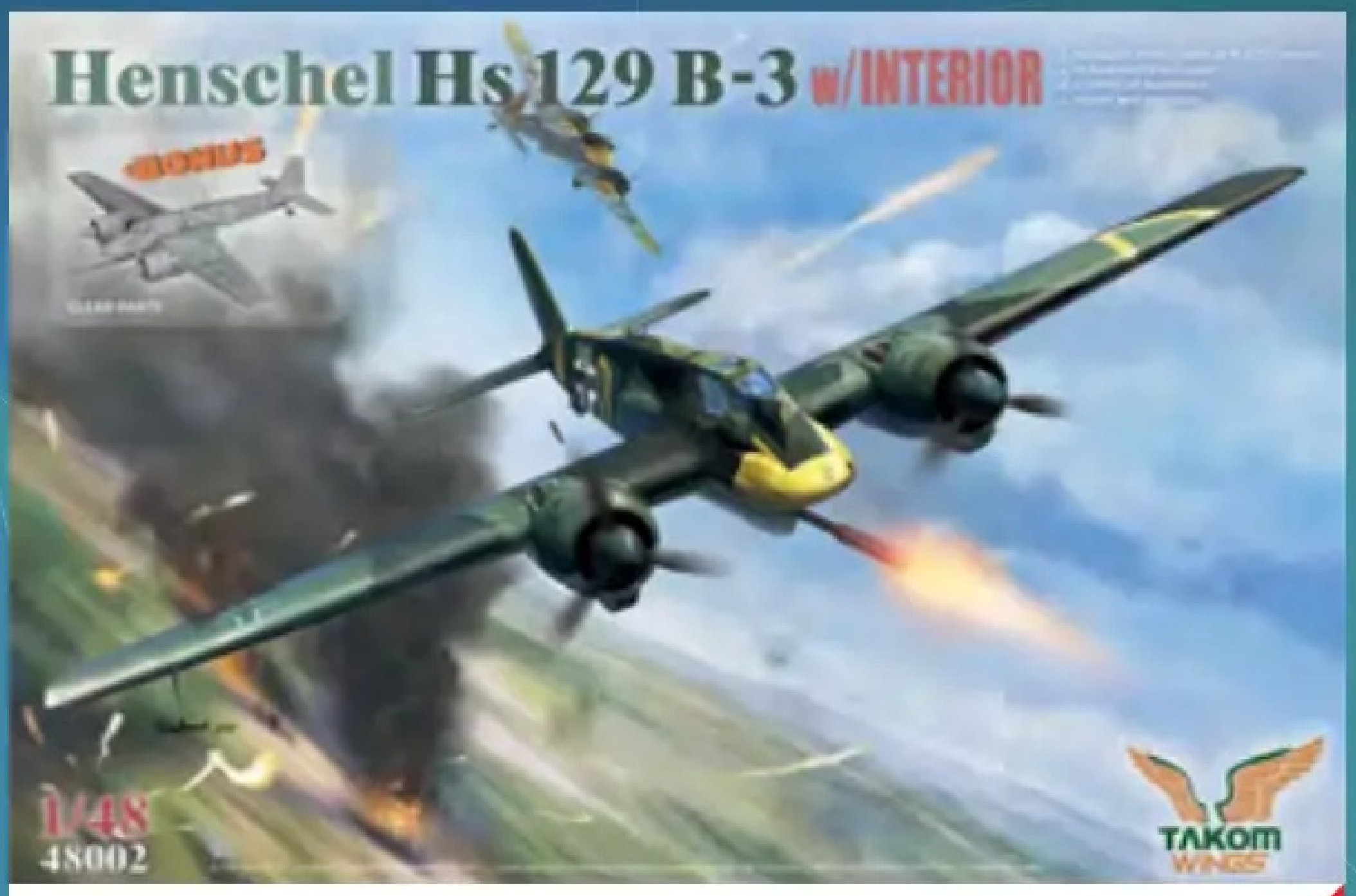
German Air Force Henschel Hs 129 B-2 Ground Attack Aircraft PKTAK48001 **1:48**

NEW

Hs 129² BOX
TAKOM
No.48001W

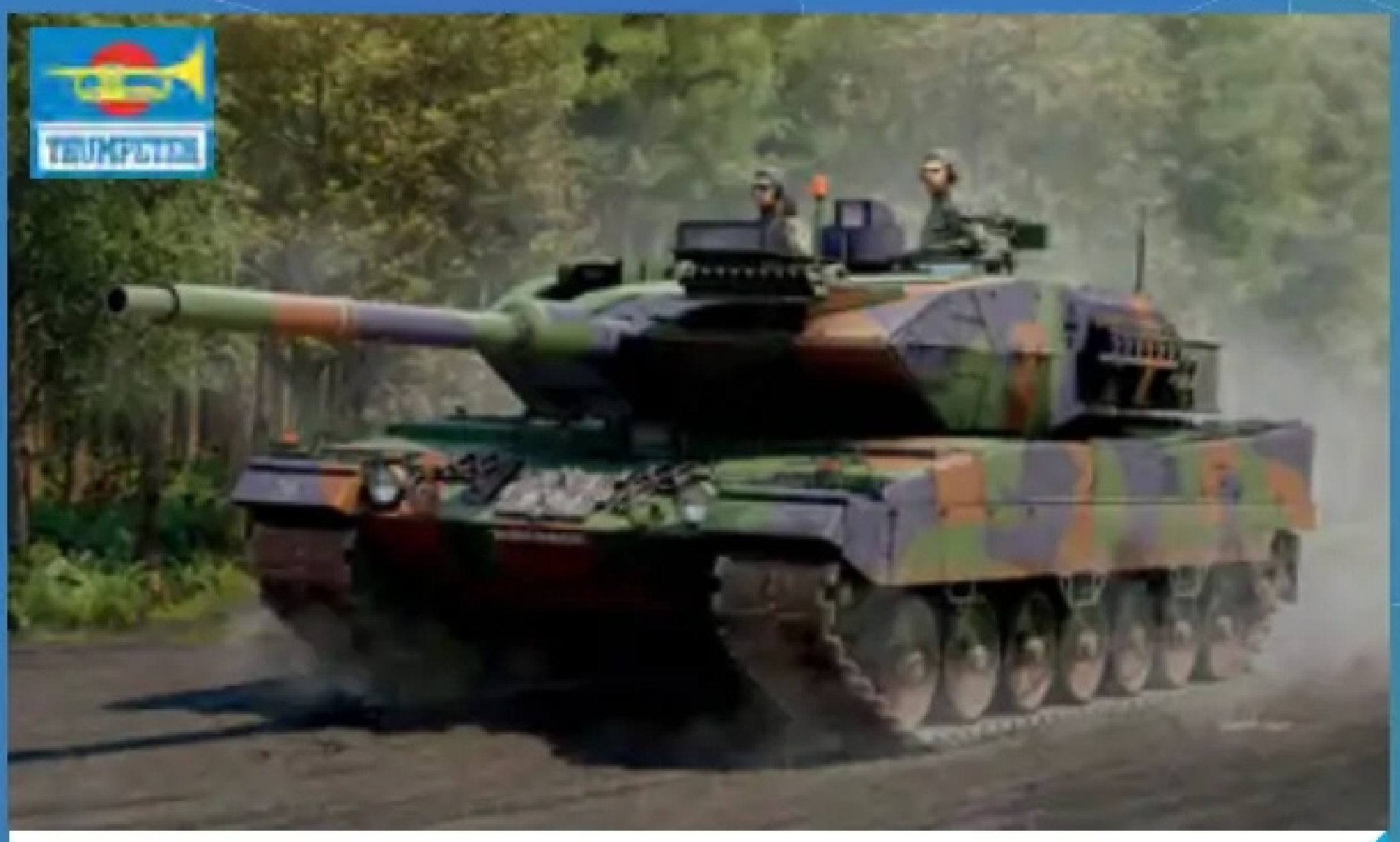
Hs 129² Big Box Limited Edition (2 aircraft 1 tank + figures) PKTAK48001W **1:48**

NEW


Henschel Hs 129 B-3 w/INTERIOR
1/48
48002
TAKOM

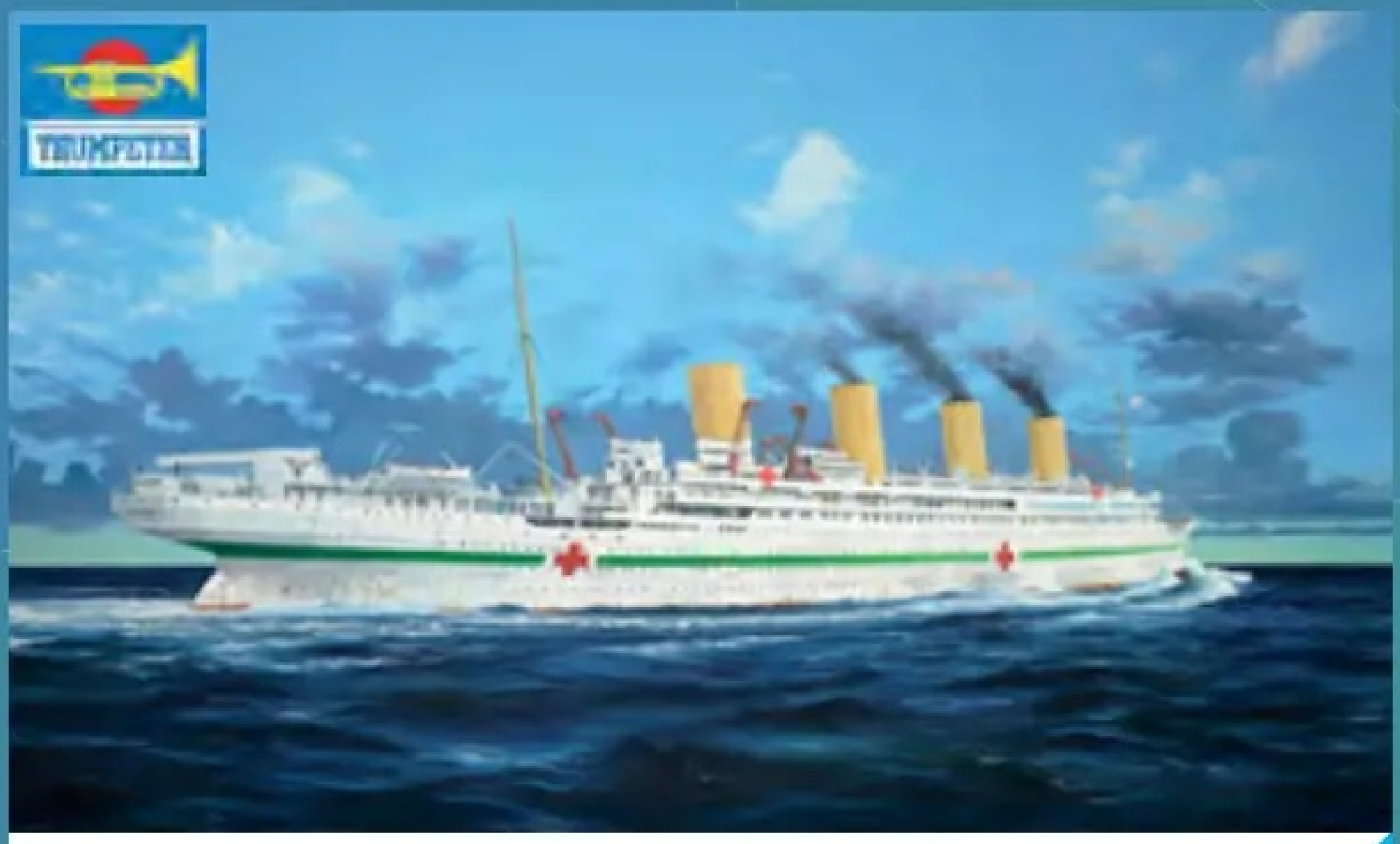
German Air Force Henschel Hs 129 B-3 Ground Attack Aircraft PKTAK48002 **1:48**

NEW



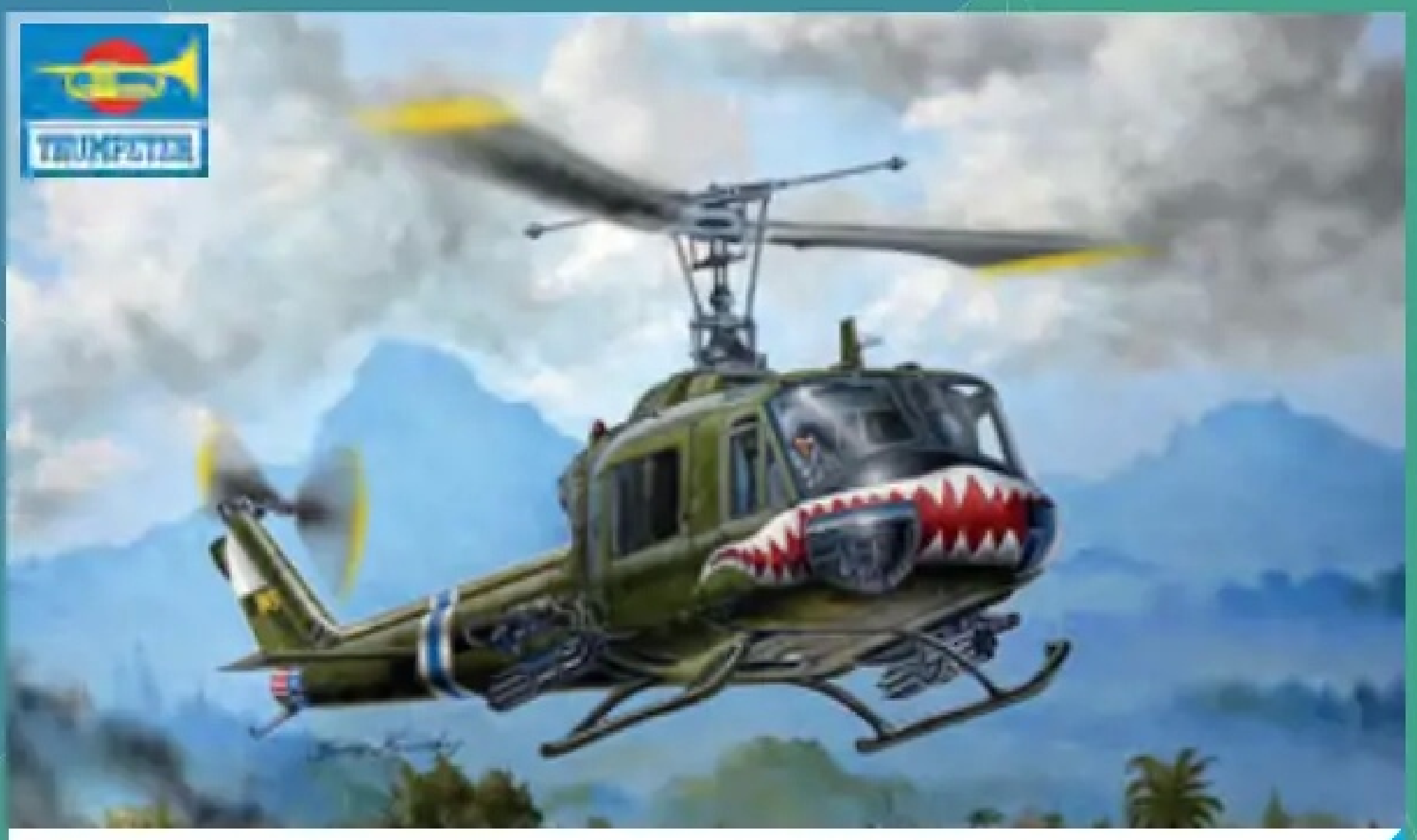
German Army Leopard 2A6 Main Battle Tank PKTM00966 **1:16**

COMING SOON



HMHS Britannic British Hospital Ship PKTM03721 **1:200**

COMING SOON



US Army UH-1B Huey Helicopter Gunship PKTM05112 **1:35**

COMING SOON

For more information on our products and to find your nearest stockist visit **www.bachmann.co.uk**

WELCOME TO YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO SCALE MODELLING

AIRFIX Model World

Airfix Model World magazine is your complete guide to the world of scale modelling. Published monthly, it caters for all manner of modellers, from the eager novice to the experienced master modeller

Don't miss out on this great subscription offer!

Stu Fone, Editor

READER REVIEW* ★★★★★
"Excellent articles for fans of models"

*Reader reviews from Pocketmags

SCAN THE QR CODE TO ORDER DIRECT FROM OUR SHOP
shop.keypublishing.com/amwsubs
or call **+44 (0)1780 480404** (Lines open 9.00-5.30, Monday-Friday GMT)

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

WHICH *AIRFIX MODEL WORLD* SUBSCRIPTION SUITS YOU BEST?

A 12 MONTH SUBSCRIPTION

BEST VALUE

UK PRINT - 1 year

£59.99

Paying by Annual Direct Debit

PLUS A FREE GIFT! Choose from Gift A or B

B 6 MONTH SUBSCRIPTION

UK PRINT - 6 months

£31.00

Paying by 6-month Direct Debit

PLUS A FREE GIFT! Choose from Gift A or B

FREE GIFT

Choose one of the following…

Gift A

Or

Gift B

WIN! £250 MODEL GIVEAWAY! 'TT:120' TRAIN SET AND SCALE STARTER SETS
BEGINNERS' GUIDE TO
MODELLING
WE SHOW YOU HOW!
Learn how to get started in model making
FEATURING
Model Railways
Plastic kits
Brick modelling
Aircraft
Military
Techniques
RAILWAY BASICS
MILITARY SKILLS
BRICK MODELLING
AIRFIX
Model World LIVE
LIMITED EDITION
1:72 SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE Mk.IXc
8+

WORTH £11.99!

WORTH £11.99!

READER REVIEW* ★★★★★
"Always full of interesting articles"

READER REVIEW* ★★★★★
"Very good, varied and informative magazine"

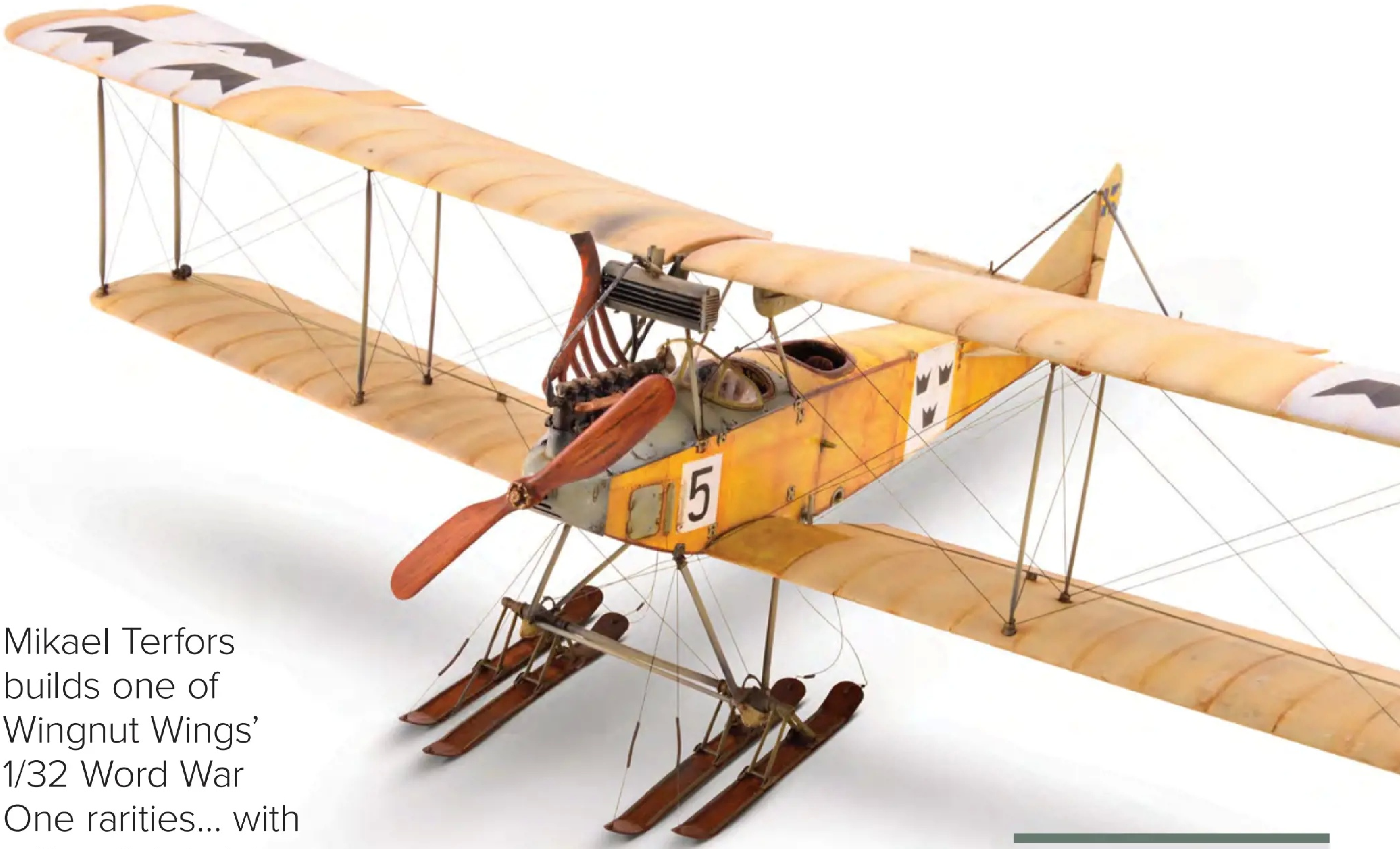
FREE! 32-PAGE PULL-OUT – INCLUDES AIRFIX'S NEW ARTEMIS SLS
AIRFIX Model World
ROTARY RASPBERRY
HOPPER'S RUNABOUT
REPUBLIC 'JUG'
BEST-VALUE MODELLING MAGAZINE – MORE PAGES FOR YOUR MONEY!
AIRFIX Model World
WIN F-14 TOMCAT KIT AND BOOK BUNDLES WORTH £260
COSMIC AUSSIE
COMMONWEALTH 'KITTY'
DIMINUTIVE HAULER

REASONS TO SUBSCRIBE TO *AIRFIX MODEL WORLD*…

» **EXCLUSIVE** Subscriber offers across books, specials and modelling essentials » **NEVER MISS AN ISSUE** - delivered direct to your door mevery month » **DISCOUNTS** on Model World LIVE event tickets » **BE THE FIRST** to read the latest features

SCAN HERE TO SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

Terms and conditions: *Quoted rates are for UK subscriptions only, paying by credit or debit card or 6-month direct debit. Standard one-year print subscription prices: UK - £65.99, EU - £71.99, USA - £89.99, ROW - £99.99. All quoted prices subject to change.* **CLOSING DATE: November 13th 2025**



Mikael Terfors builds one of Wingnut Wings' 1/32 Word War One rarities... with a Swedish twist.

A VERY Swedish bird

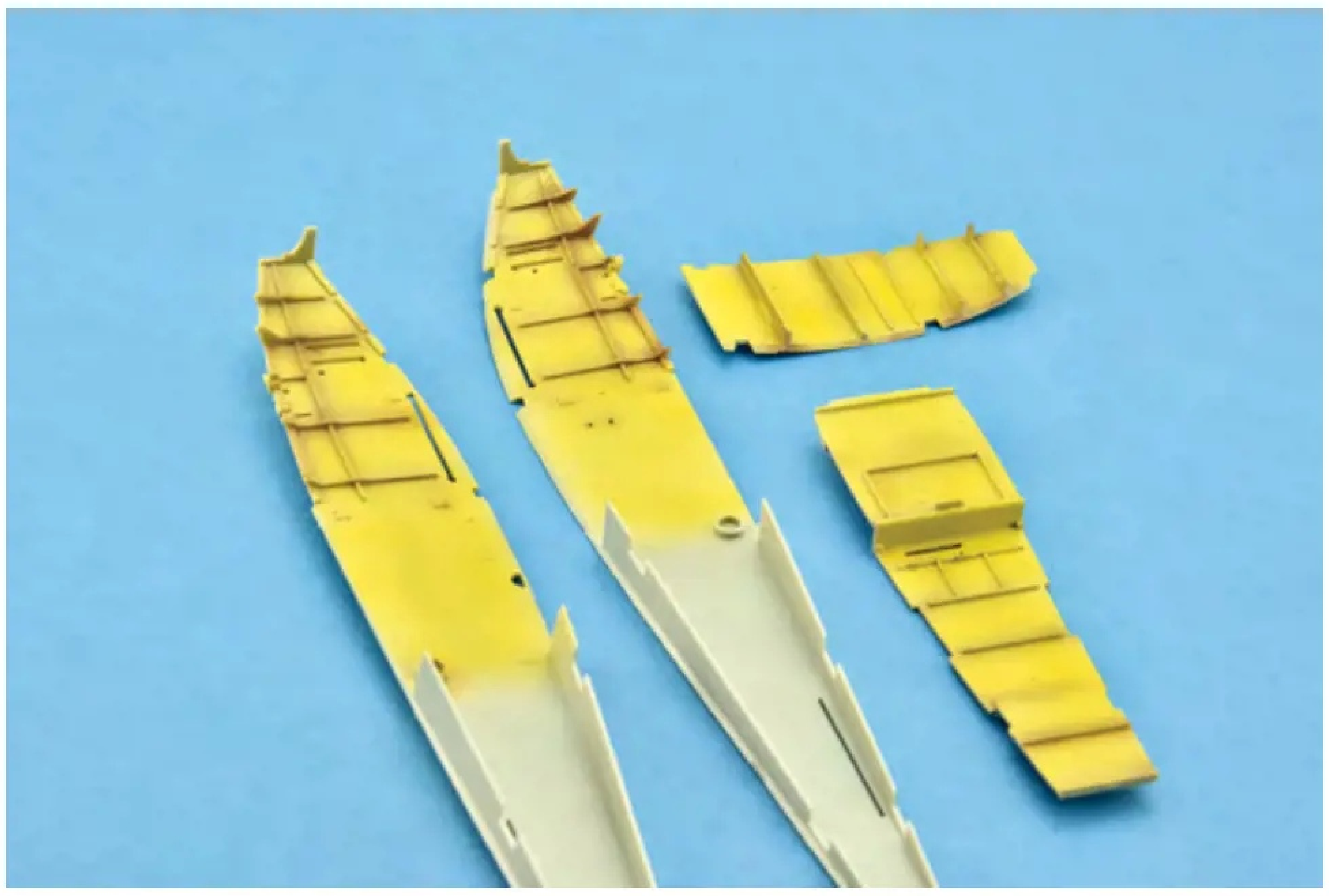
MODEL SPEC

Albatros B.II (Early)
By: Wingnut Wings
Stock Code: 32046
Scale: 1/32
Price: approx £160-200
Available from: auction sites

Wingnut Wings
Albatros B.II Early
1/32

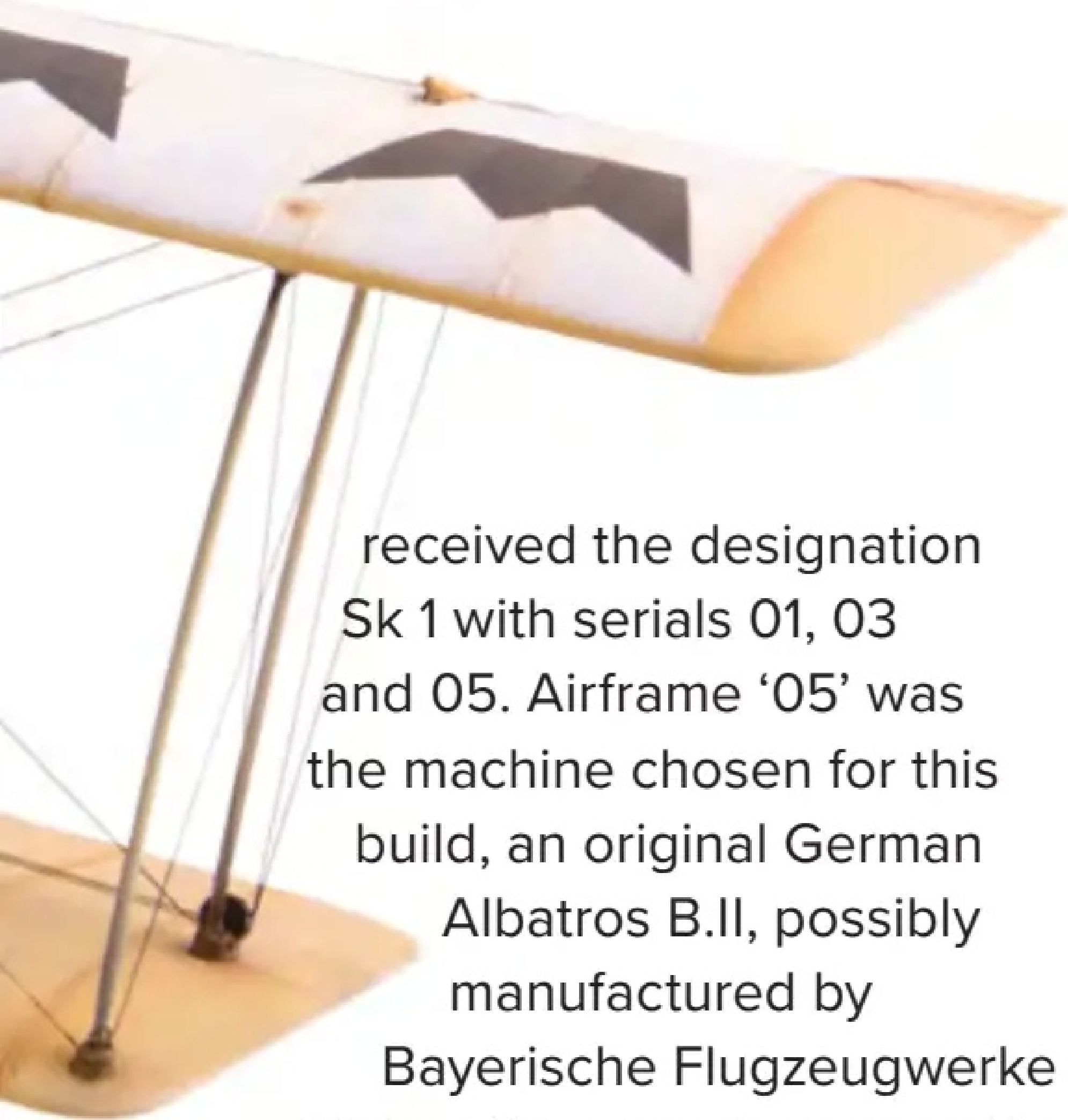
The Albatros B.II was a German biplane developed before and during World War One. Introduced in 1914, it was utilised primarily for reconnaissance and training purposes by the Imperial German Army Air Service. Though not as famous as other aircraft of the period, the B.II played a crucial role during the war's early stages, providing valuable intelligence to German forces. By 1915, the type was gradually relegated to training duties. Just prior to the war's outbreak, a German pilot, Lothar Wieland, set out on a European tour with a stopover in Stockholm... unfortunately the plane was damaged on landing and then interned after hostilities commenced. It was subsequently repaired, with the design essentially copied, serving as a blueprint for a Swedish version manufactured by four different aircraft firms.

During 1919, Marinens Flyväsende (MFV - Naval Air Force) inquired about the possibility of ordering a quantity of '120-tross' from the Swedish factories (Albatros with a 120hp engine). The navy was, however, able to purchase five original aircraft from Germany, which



▲ The inside panels were sprayed with a light mix of XF-3 Flat Yellow and XF-55 Deck Tan over a shadow layer of XF-68 NATO Brown.

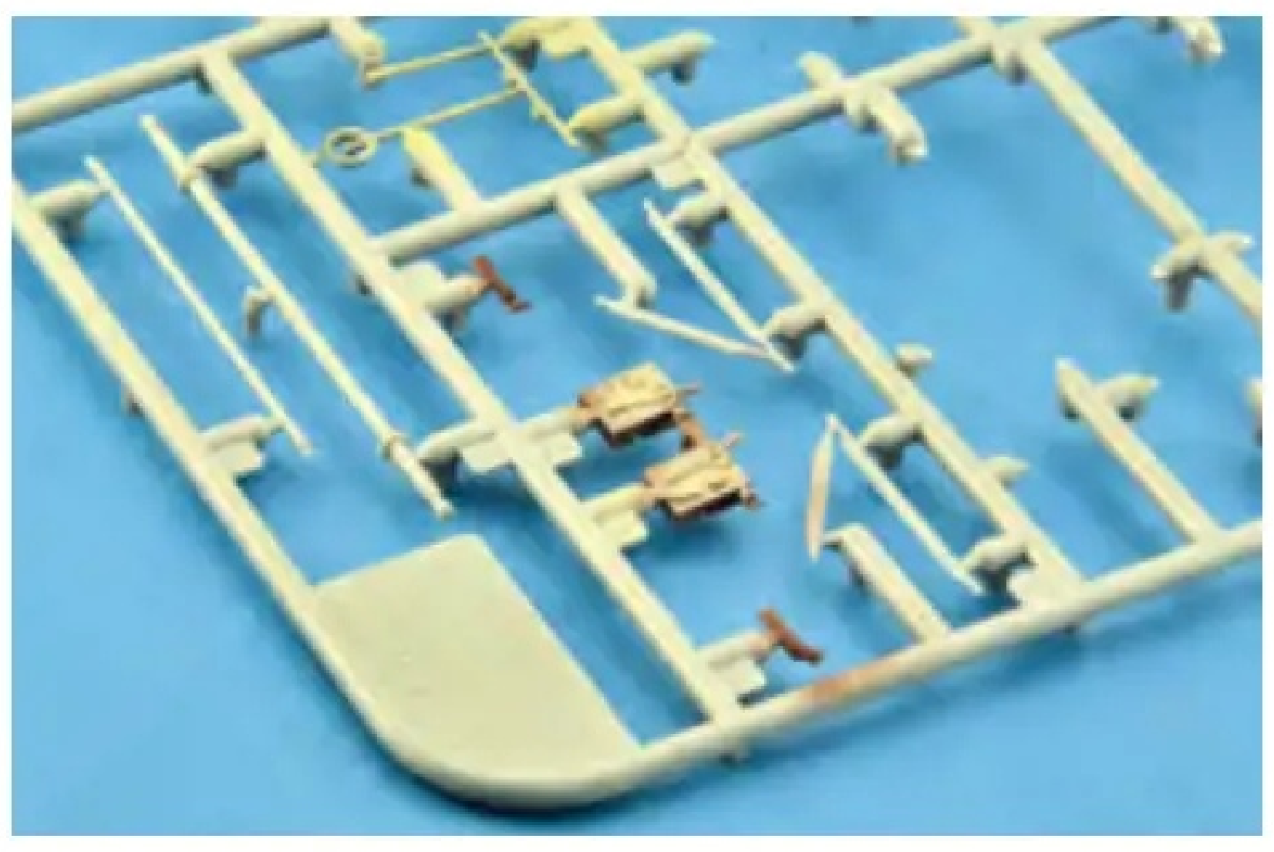
were delivered between August 1919 and January 1922. Fitted with skis, they were used as training assets at the navy's flying school, based at Hägernäs (just north of Stockholm) during the winter months, taking off/landing on the ice. Three aircraft were sent in November 1926 from TDS (Torpedo department at the fleet's shipyard in Stockholm) to Ljungbyhed, where they received the designation Sk 1 with serials 01, 03 and 05. Airframe '05' was the machine chosen for this build, an original German Albatros B.II, possibly manufactured by Bayerische Flugzeugwerke AG (not BII.a, as often stated in Swedish records).



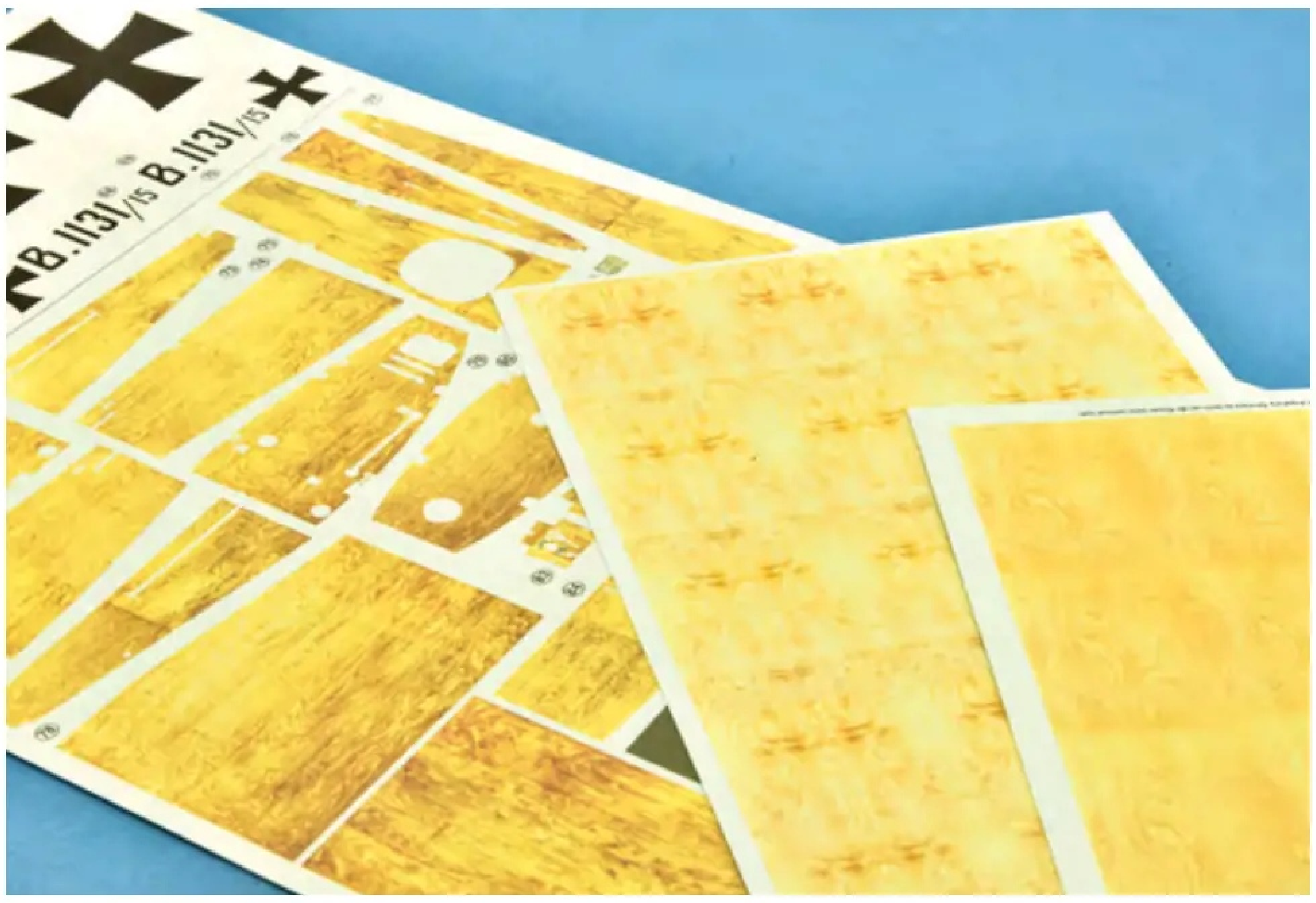
Classic subjects

After Wingnut Wings closed, its kits have become increasingly sought after, with many modellers hoping for either a reboot or an inventory sale. Late in 2022, it was announced that the remaining stock would be sold via selected retailers, creating massive interest and – for a short while – several of these kits were once more available at retail prices. One of these was the Albatros B.II. (Early), an impressive kit, which was first released in 2015. There's a fairly low parts count, with all styrene items being moulded crisply; the runners (including a frame for the clear parts) are joined by a small photo-etched metal fret. Wingnut's superb instructions gave a clear understanding of the construction, plus there were several period photos to aid modellers. The Cartograf-printed decal sheets were to the firm's usual high standard, also providing the plywood for the fuselage in a 'cookie-cut' pattern, but as these were printed on white carrier film, they were opaque and would not work for the planned execution. Instead, clear 'wooden' decal sheets were sourced from Uschi van der Rosten and HGW.

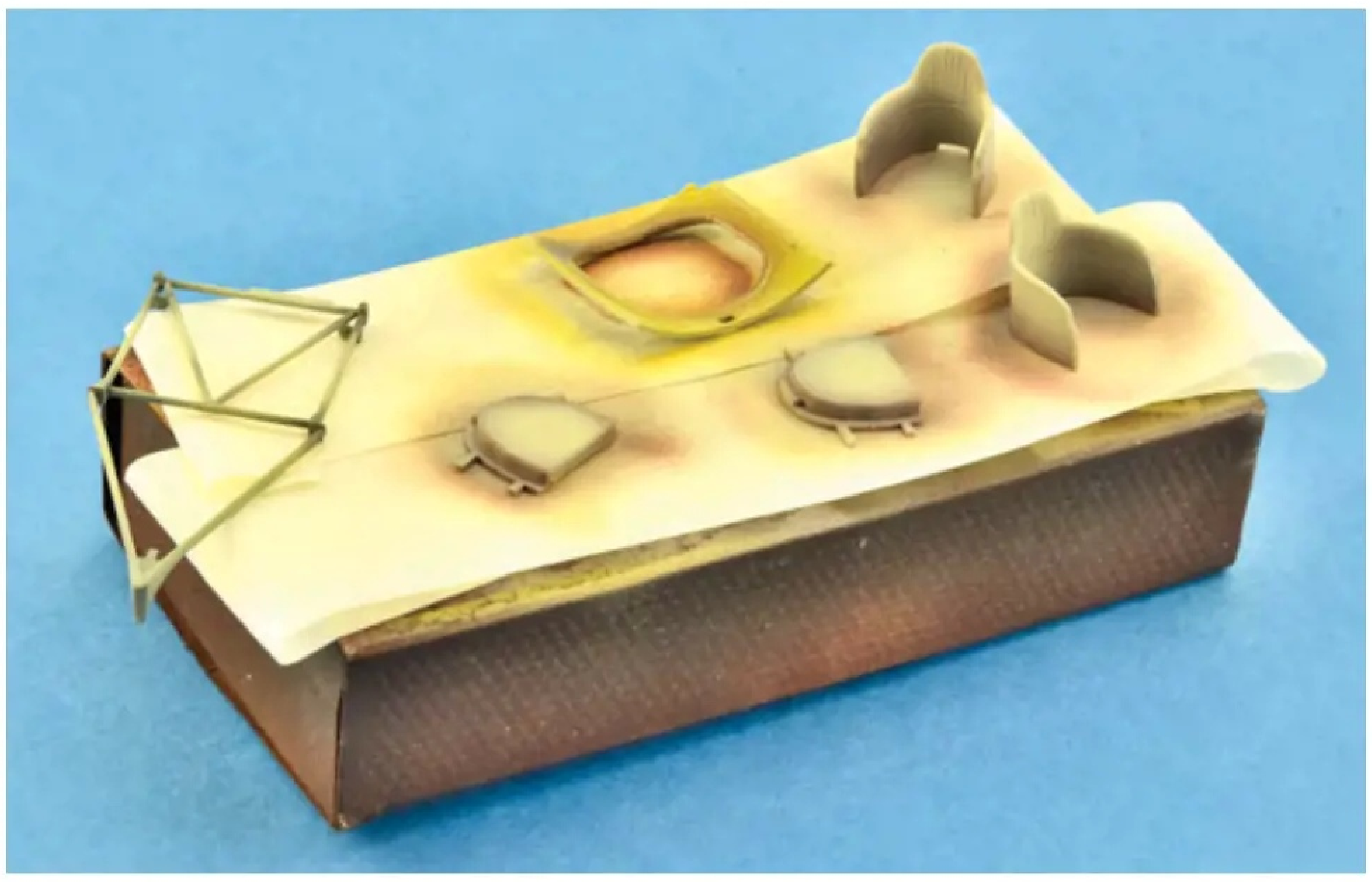
As this was to be a conversion from an early-pattern German ▶



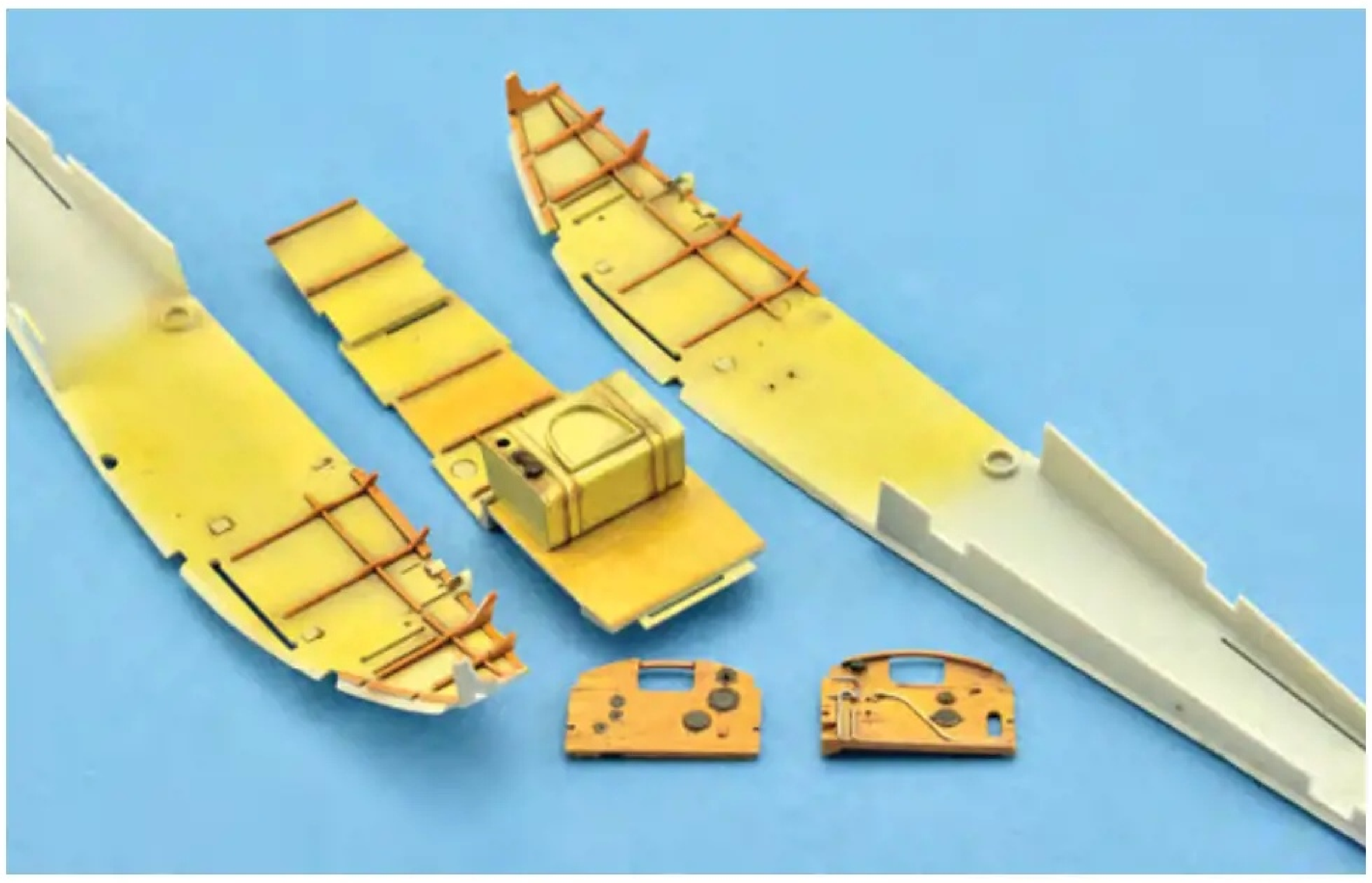
▲ Smaller items were left on the runner to ease painting.



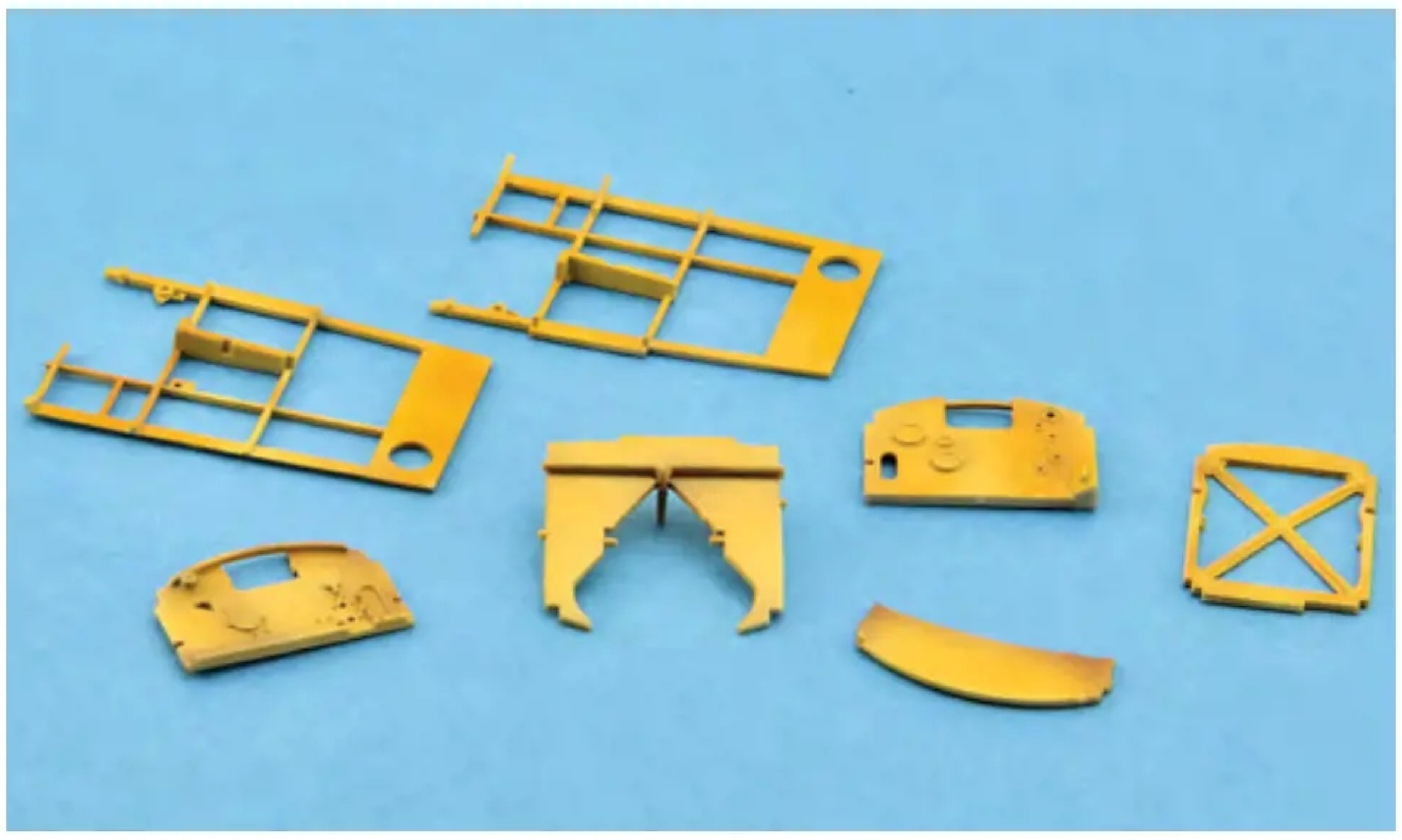
▲ The kit and aftermarket decal sheets for comparison. The latter (uppermost) were printed on clear carrier film and though not 'cookie cut', were preferred.



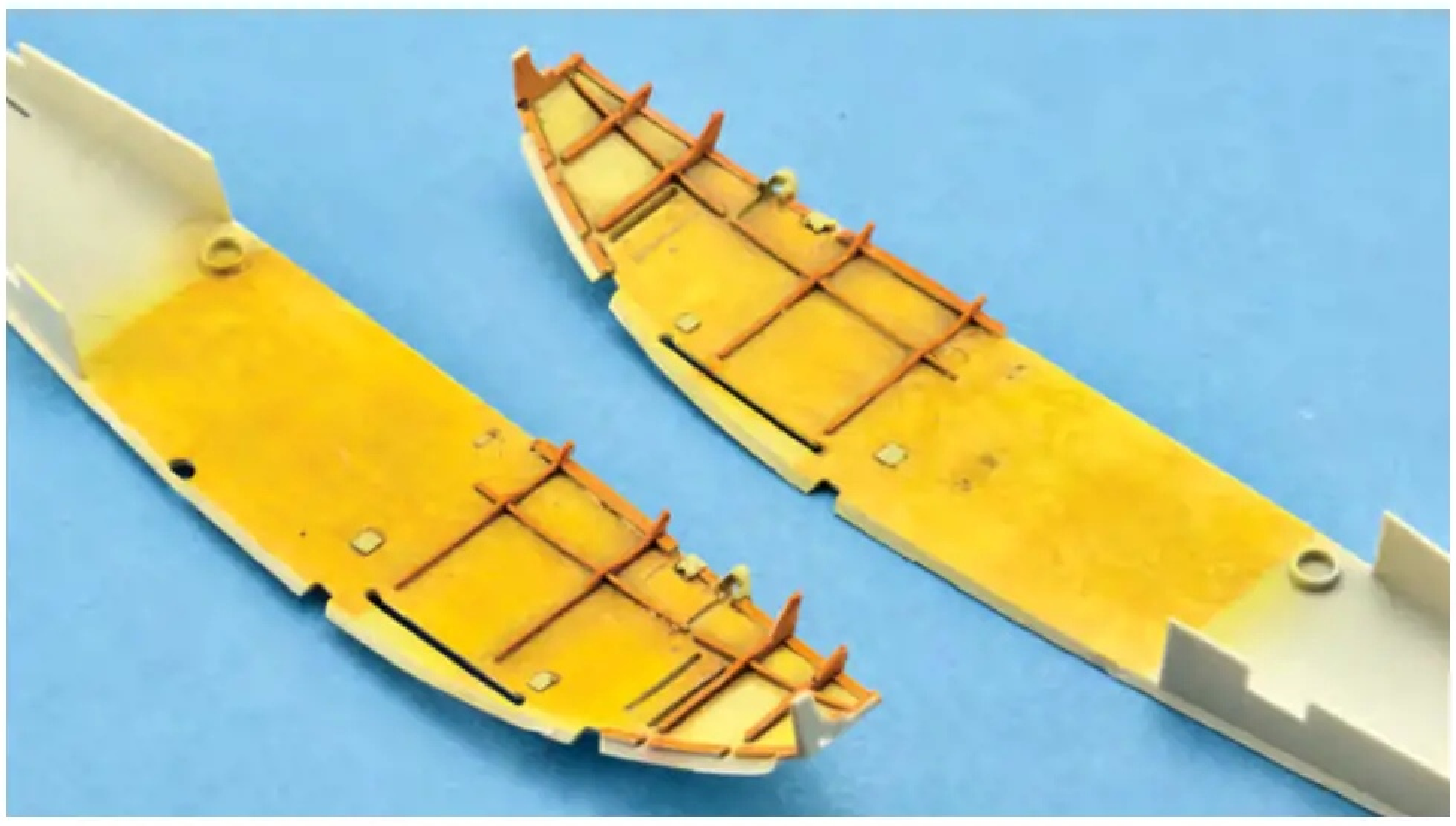
▲ All parts and sub-assemblies were first airbrushed with Tamiya acrylics in preparation for detailing with oils and Vallejo acrylics.



▲ Detail painting really accentuated the different textures on the various sub-assemblies.

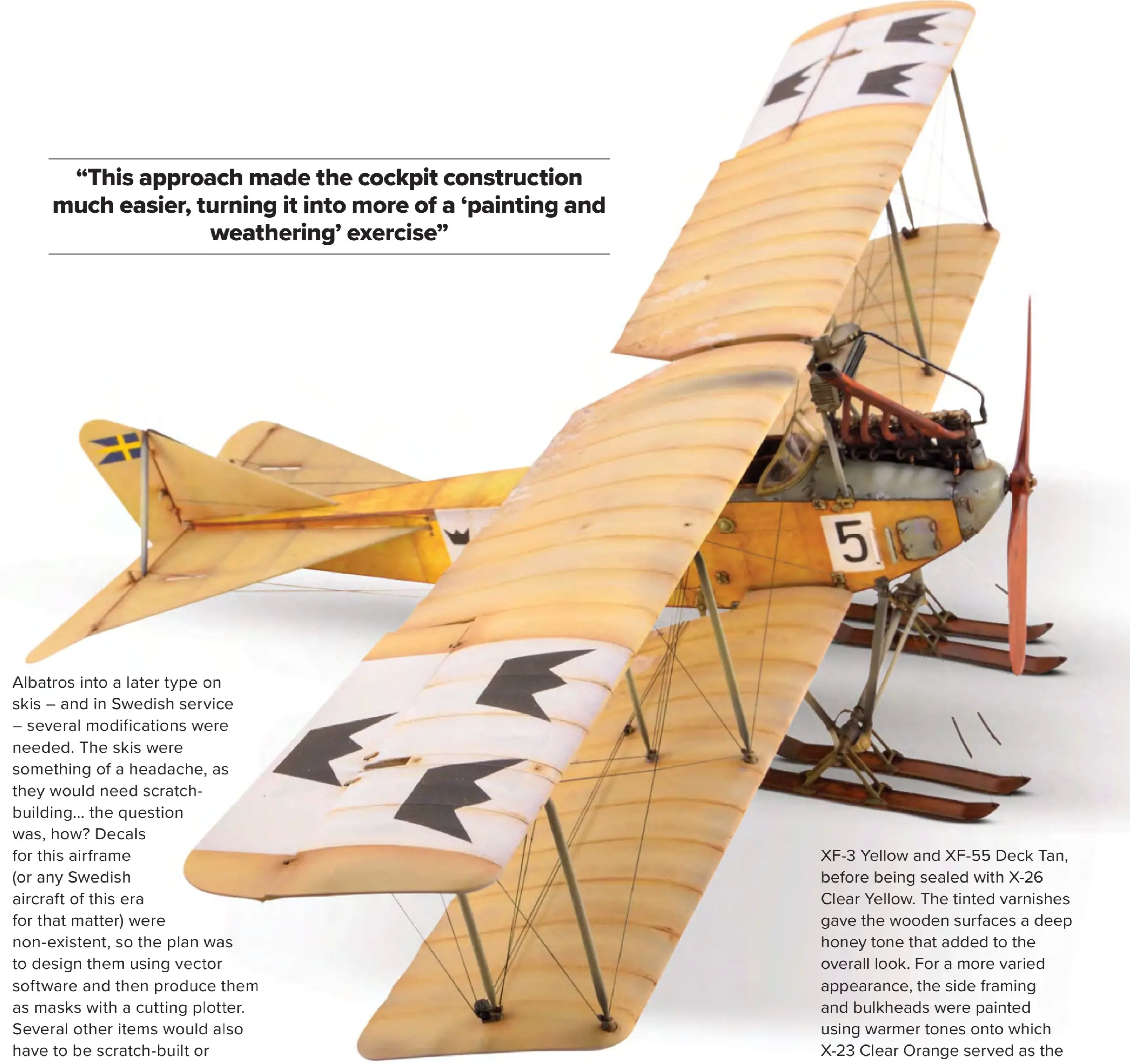


▲ For a greater variation, some of the wooden detail was painted with a more orange hue, using X-26 as a translucent topcoat.



▲ Side panels were then covered with Uschi and HGW plywood decals; although much would be hidden once the fuselage was closed, the subtle effect was satisfying, nonetheless.

> **“This approach made the cockpit construction much easier, turning it into more of a ‘painting and weathering’ exercise”**

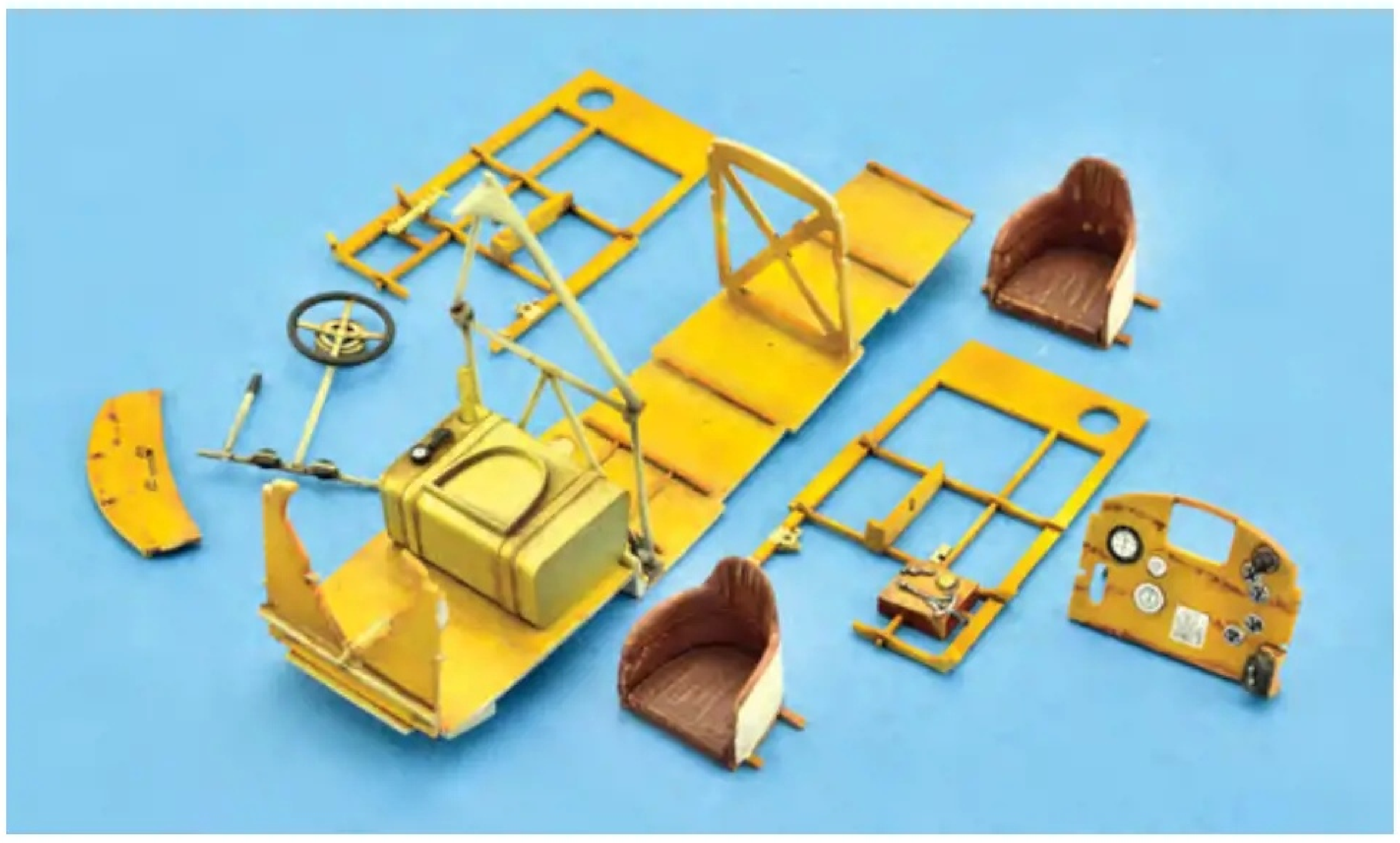


Albatros into a later type on skis – and in Swedish service – several modifications were needed. The skis were something of a headache, as they would need scratch-building… the question was, how? Decals for this airframe (or any Swedish aircraft of this era for that matter) were non-existent, so the plan was to design them using vector software and then produce them as masks with a cutting plotter. Several other items would also have to be scratch-built or modified from existing parts.

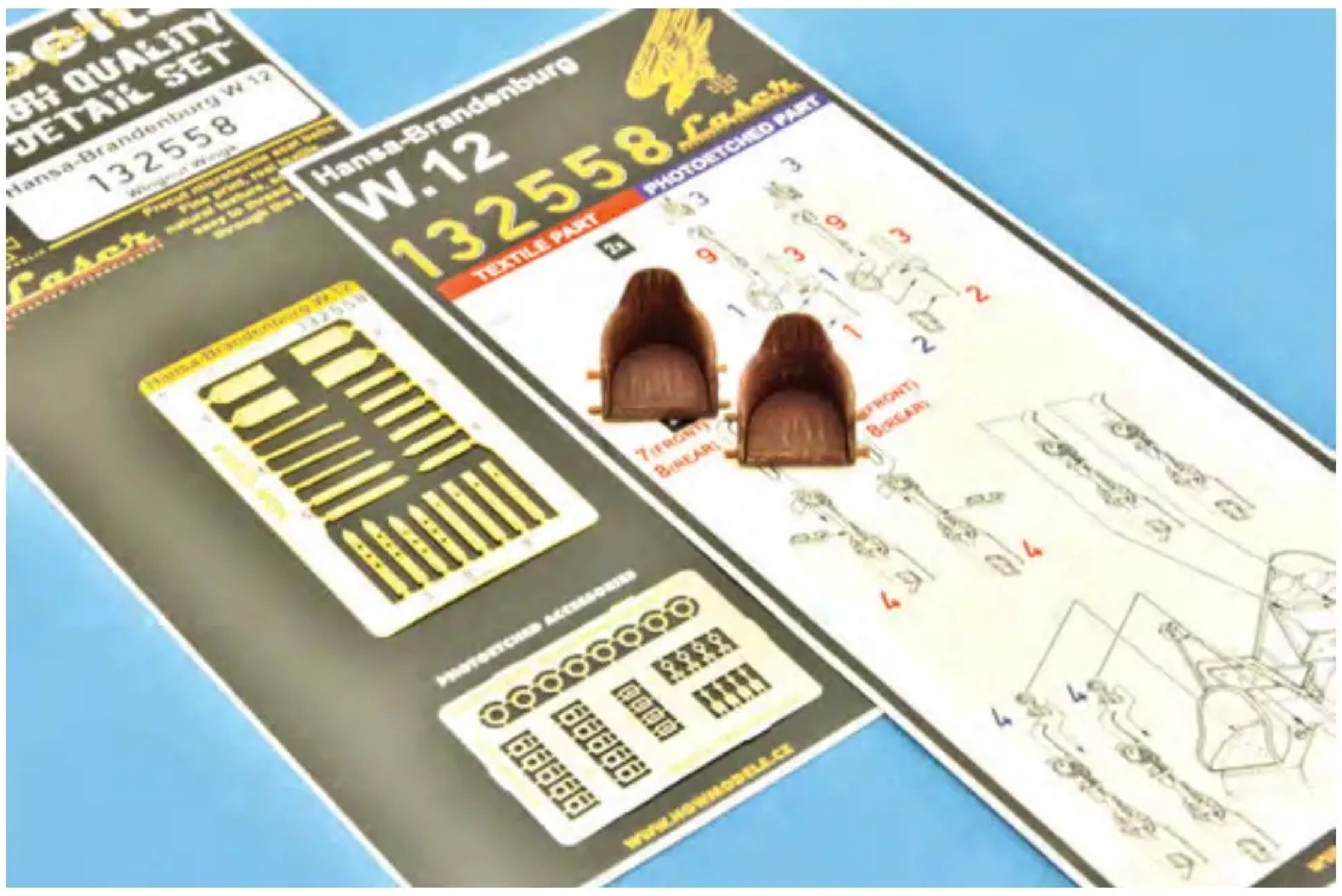
In-line power

The interior was well represented and in typical Wingnut Wings style, containing few, but well detailed parts. Here, the basic structure is formed from a floor and side frames, all featuring plenty of detail, onto which further instruments and equipment are added. This approach made the cockpit construction much easier, turning it into more of a painting and weathering exercise. Flat wooden surfaces were finished with decals over a mix of Tamiya XF-3 Yellow and XF-55 Deck Tan, before being sealed with X-26 Clear Yellow. The tinted varnishes gave the wooden surfaces a deep honey tone that added to the overall look. For a more varied appearance, the side framing and bulkheads were painted using warmer tones onto which X-23 Clear Orange served as the upper varnish. Items such as the seats and instrument panel were finished with acrylics and oils. Weathering was mostly applied as pin washes with brown oils. Rather than employ the kit’s PE seatbelts, aftermarket items from HGW were used. These fabric-type and PE combinations were fiddly to construct, but looked the part once completed, their flexibility making them easier to place than the kit parts.

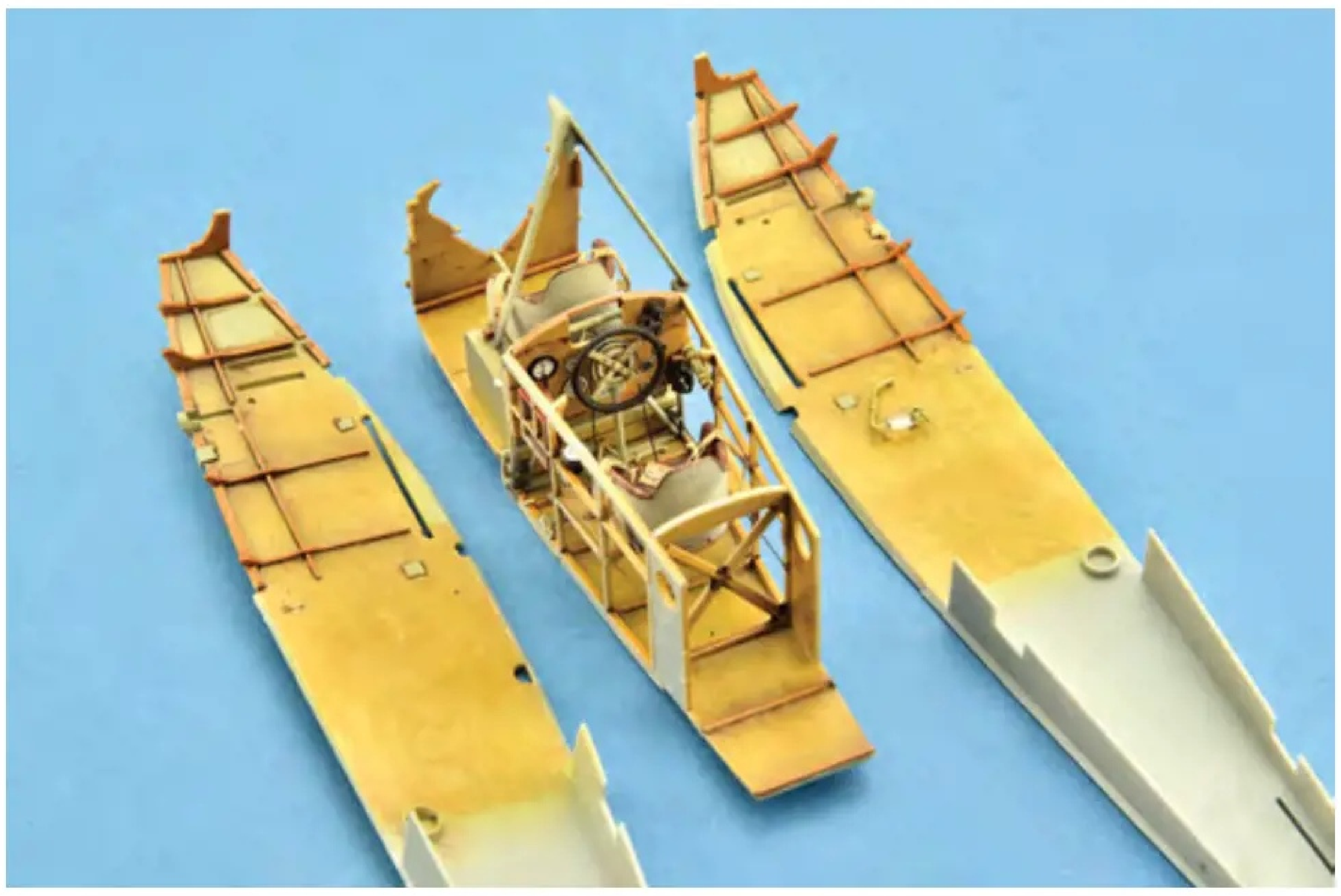
Similarly, the engine is highly detailed, but was easy to build from the few styrene parts. Painting was also fairly



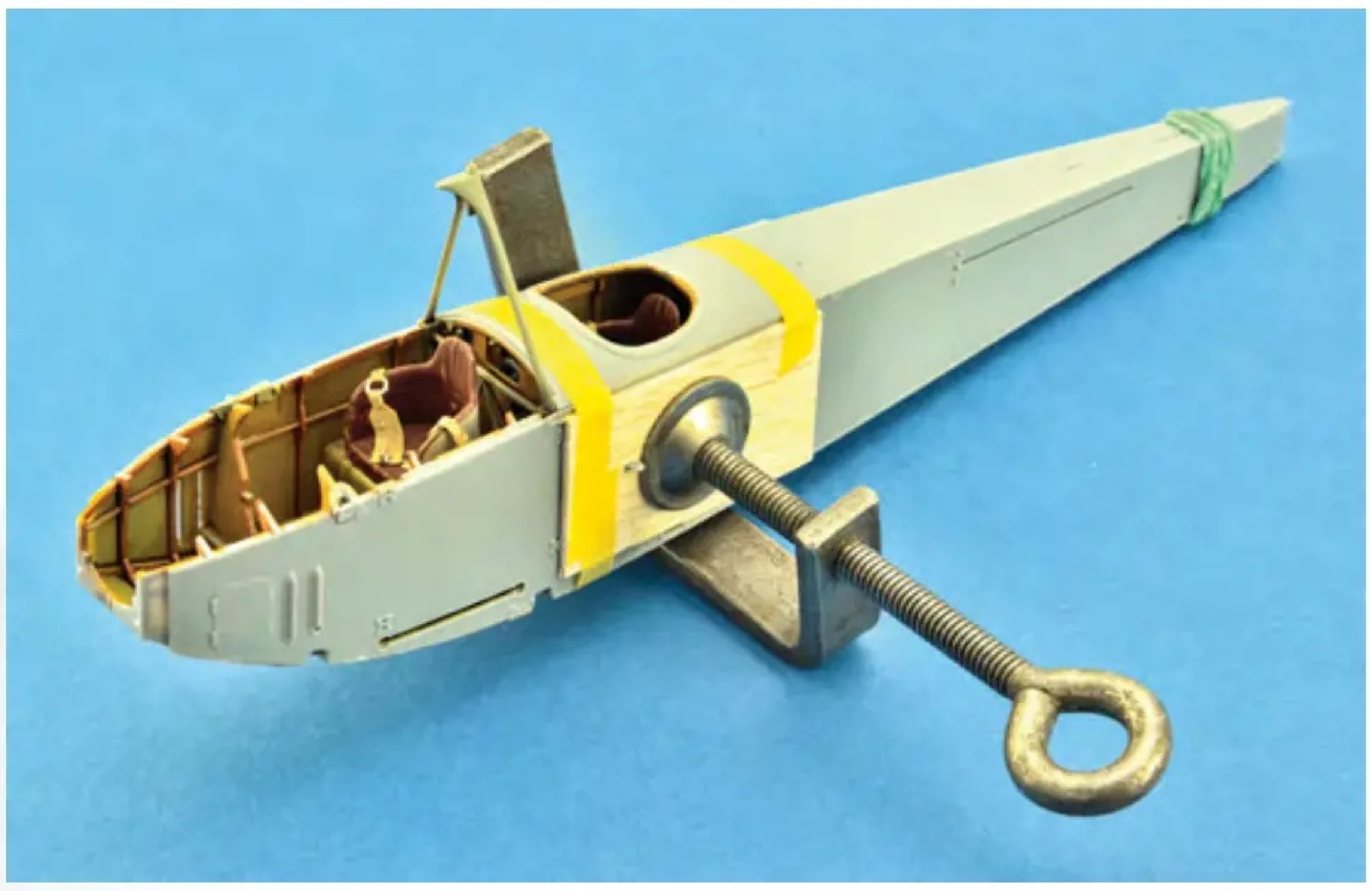
▲ **All cockpit components and sub-assemblies painted and ready for construction. Note the worn leather seats.**



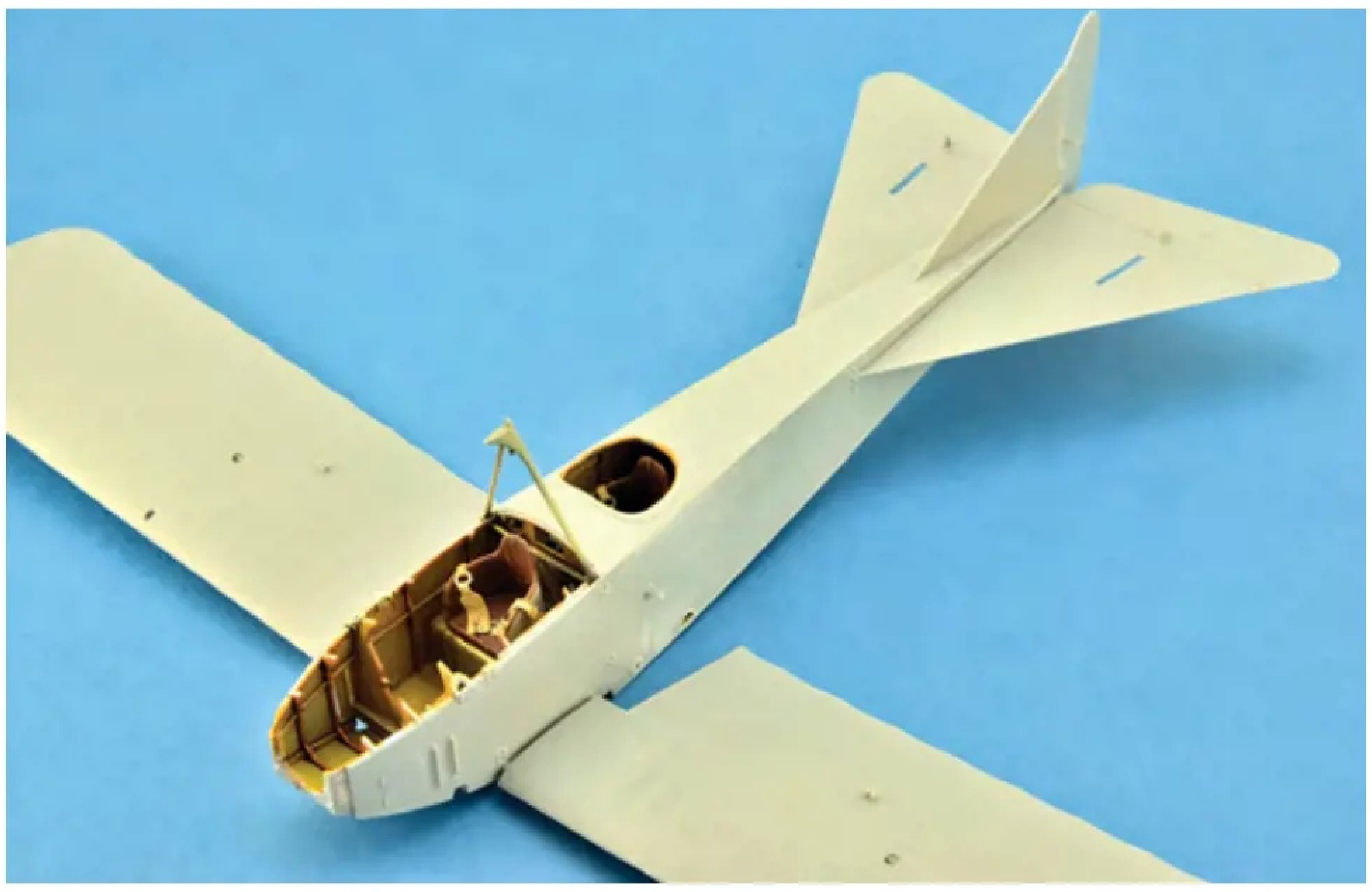
▲ Instead of using the kit's PE seatbelts, aftermarket items from HGW were sourced… although designed for a Hansa W.12, they were similar on most German types.



▲ The cockpit sub-assembly was surprisingly busy given its relatively low parts count; here it is ready for installation between the fuselage halves.



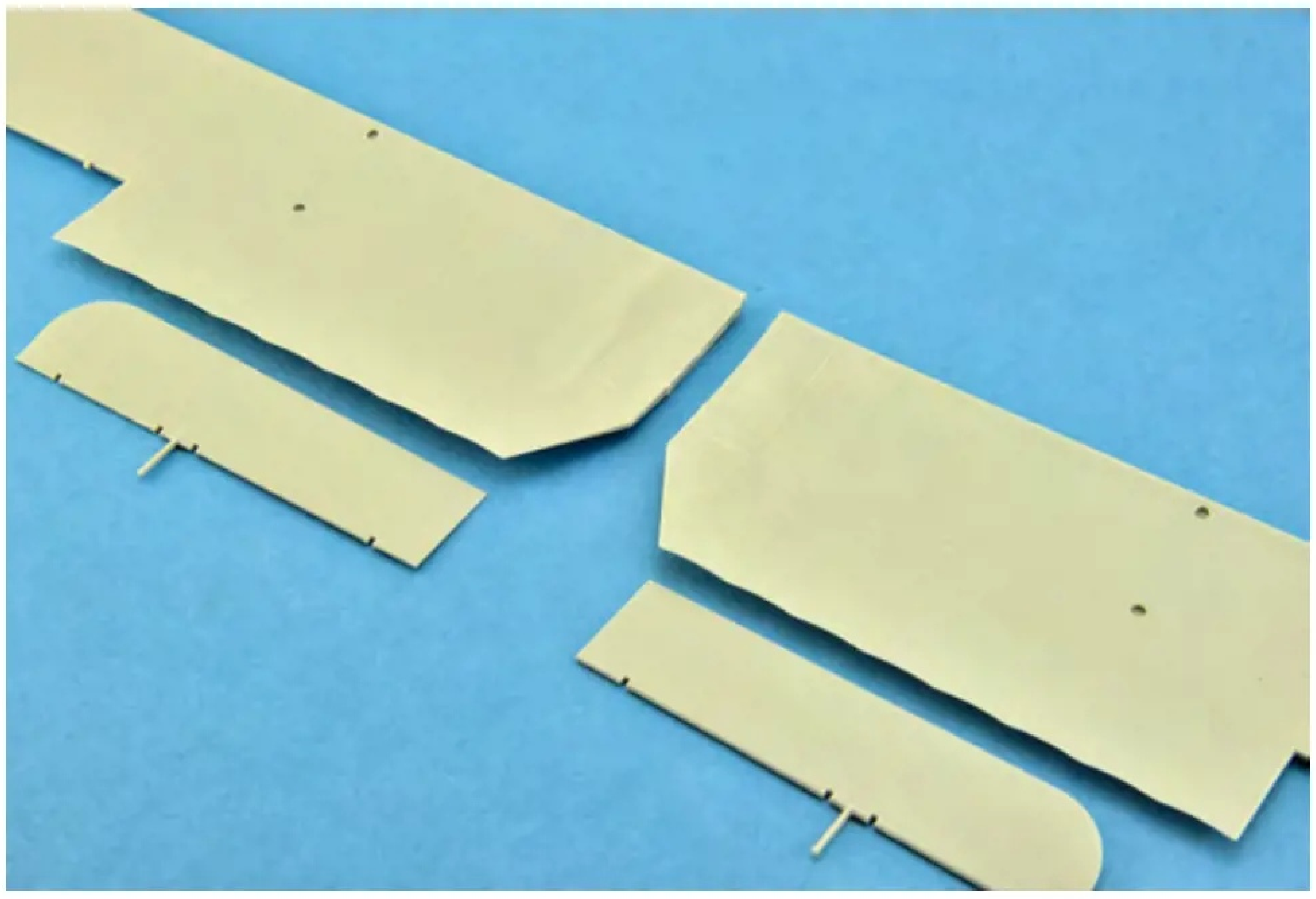
▲ The fit was excellent, and the use of rubber bands ensured minimal gaps. The clamp was used to resolve the slightly bulging sides, with balsa protecting the styrene during this stage.



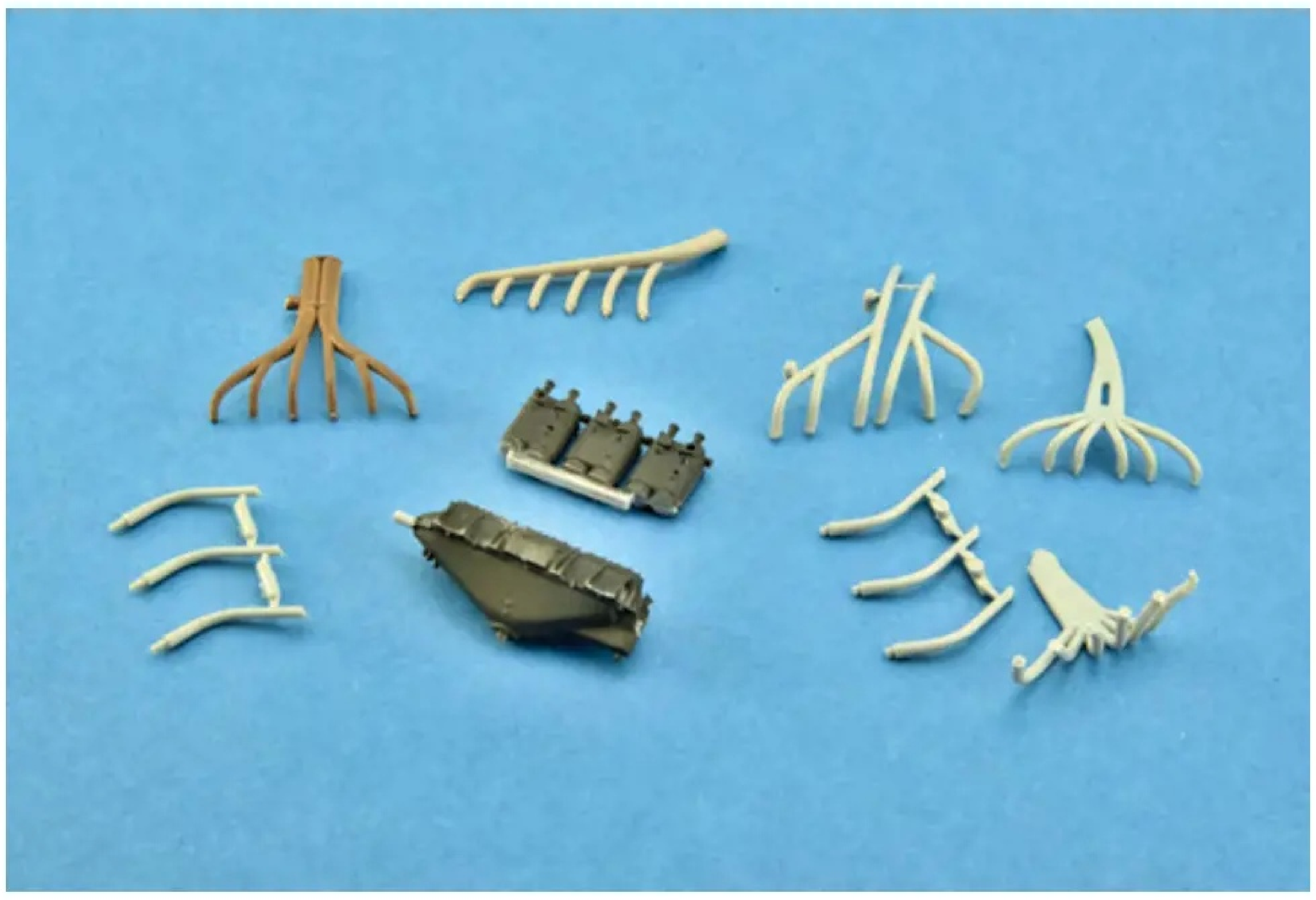
▲ With the fuselage glued together, the lower wings and tail were dry fitted… it was deemed better to check for any issues at this stage rather than after the addition of paint.

uncomplicated as it required mostly black and aluminium hues. Metallic surfaces received Vallejo's Acrylic Metal Colors, which were sprayed. Since the engine wasn't going to be displayed, no further detailing (other than spark plug leads) was added, and it was weathered lightly, using oils. One item that needed extra attention was the exhaust stack. There were several configurations approved for use with the 120hp Daimler-Mercedes DII Engine, and several were included with the kit, but the arrangement seen on '05' was not among them. As there wasn't a suitable replacement in my spares box, an approximation was created, using pieces from two extra exhausts and filler. The most delicate operation was drilling and filing openings, giving the impression of a thin-walled nozzle. A mix of oils and acrylics were then used for painting, with the most

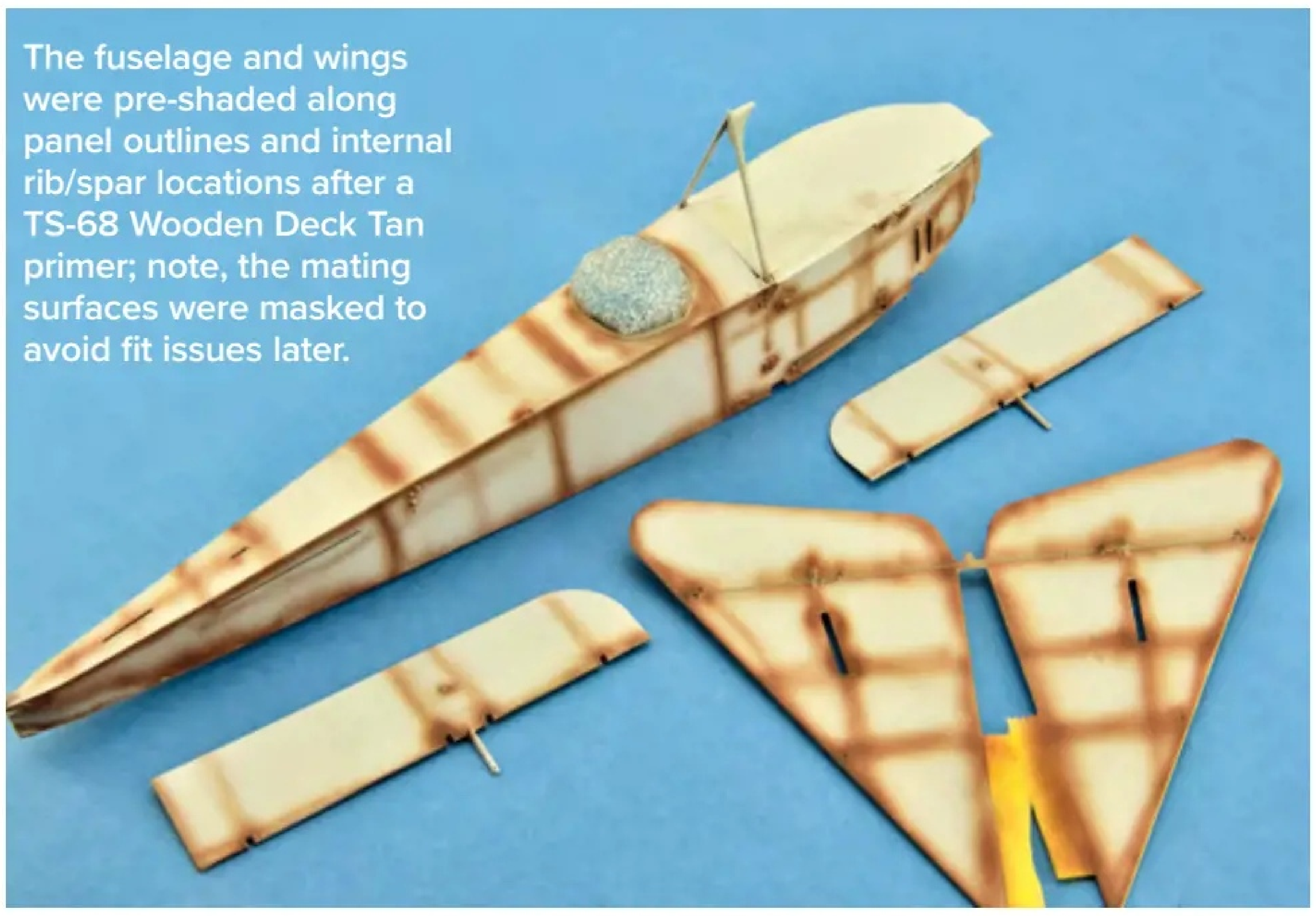
▶



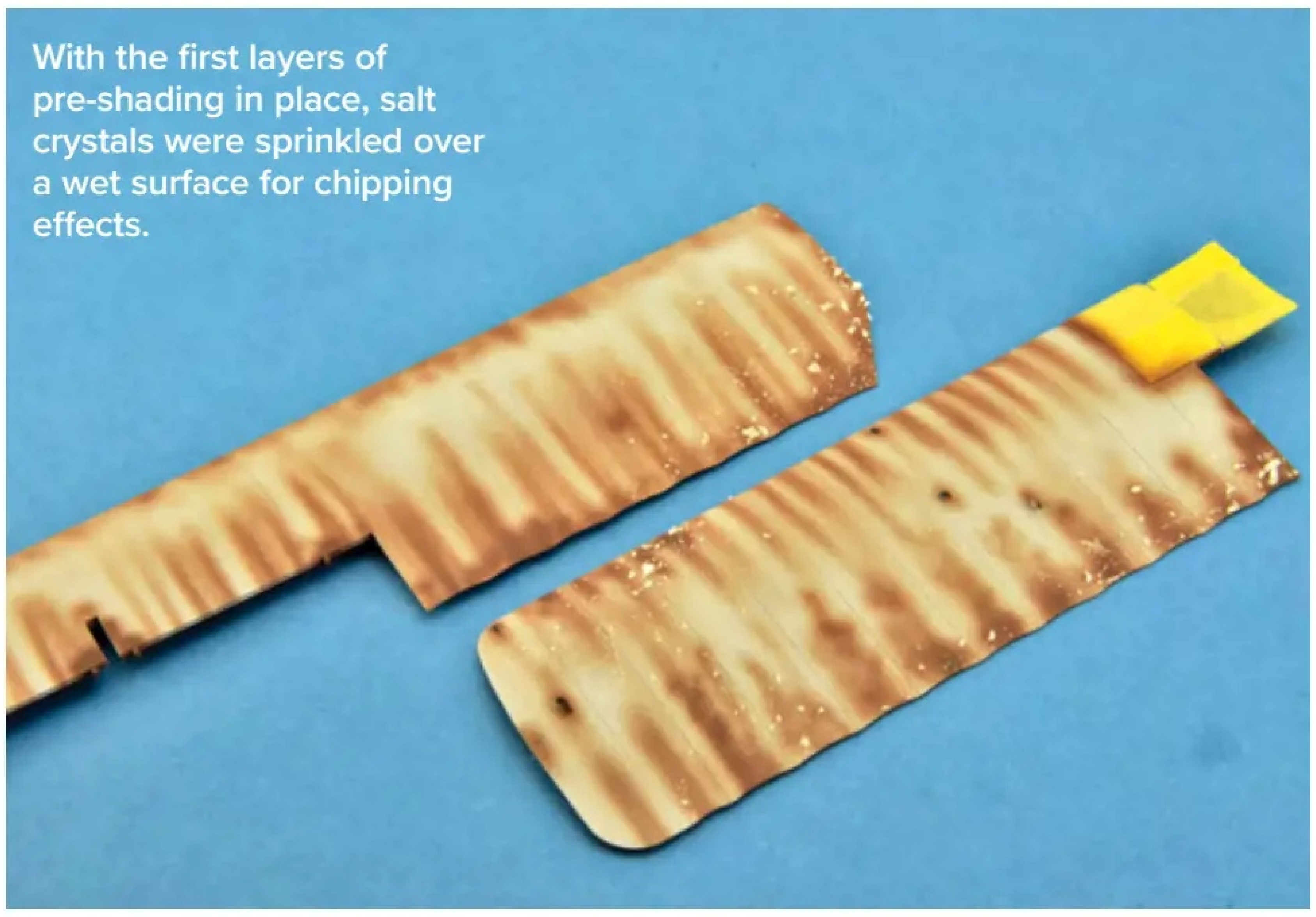
▲ Filler was needed on the upper wing undersides along the seams, caused by the separate insert panels.



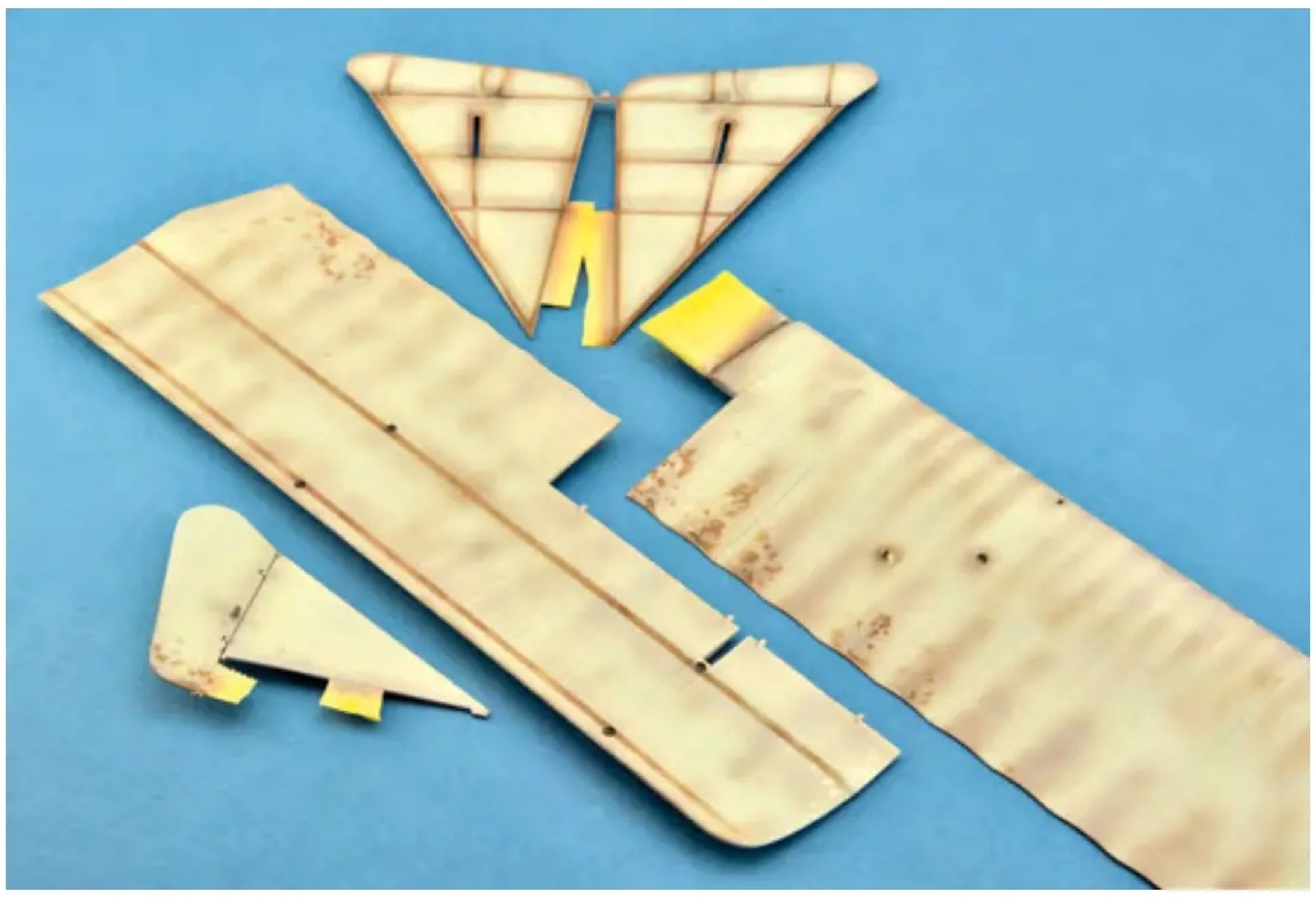
▲ As the exhaust stack differed from the kit options, various exhausts from the scrap-box were trialled as a basis for a scratch-built replacement.



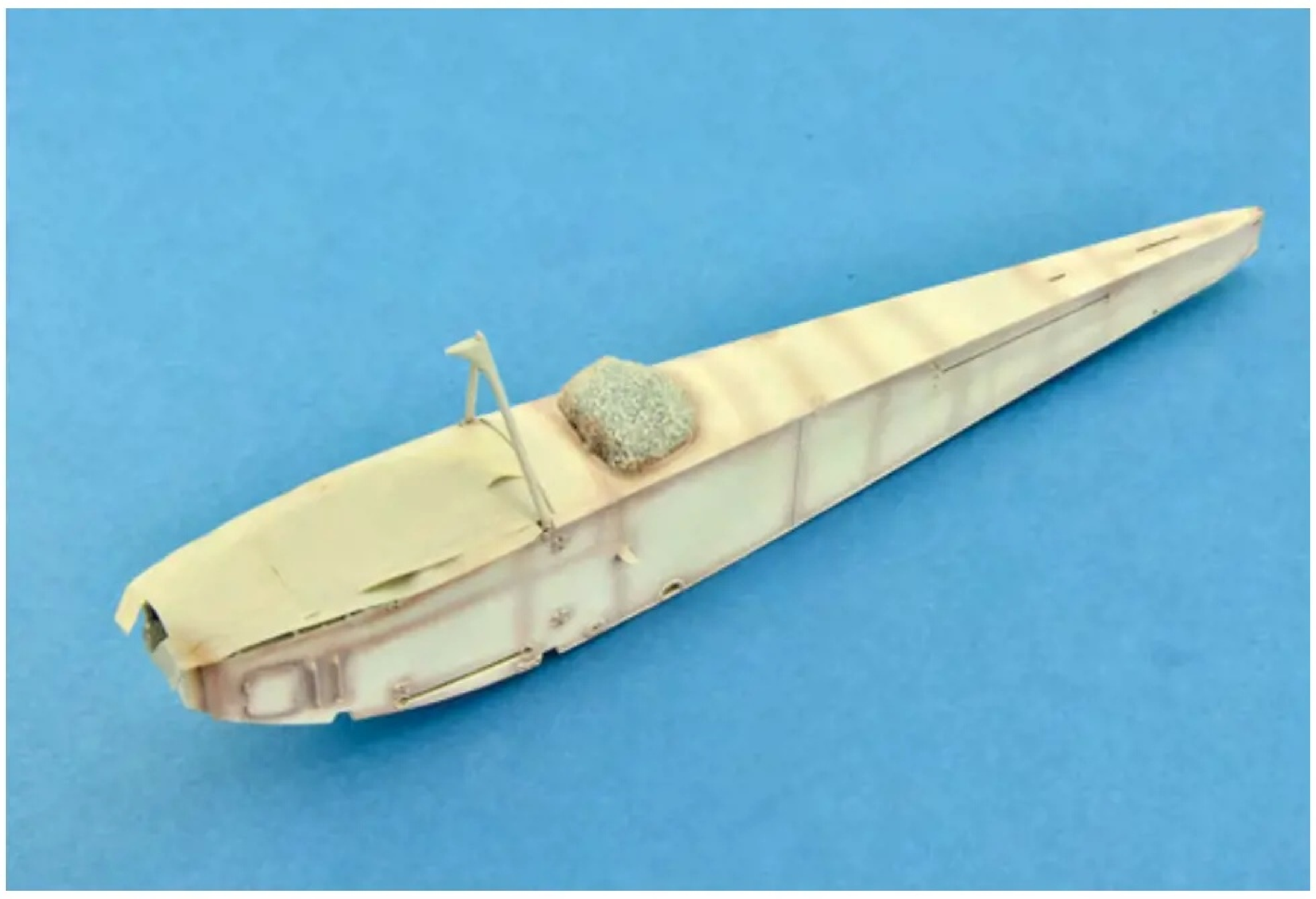
The fuselage and wings were pre-shaded along panel outlines and internal rib/spar locations after a TS-68 Wooden Deck Tan primer; note, the mating surfaces were masked to avoid fit issues later.



With the first layers of pre-shading in place, salt crystals were sprinkled over a wet surface for chipping effects.



▲ After a light intermediate layer of XF-55 Deck Tan, the salt was removed, revealing the patched surfaces typical of worn fabric.

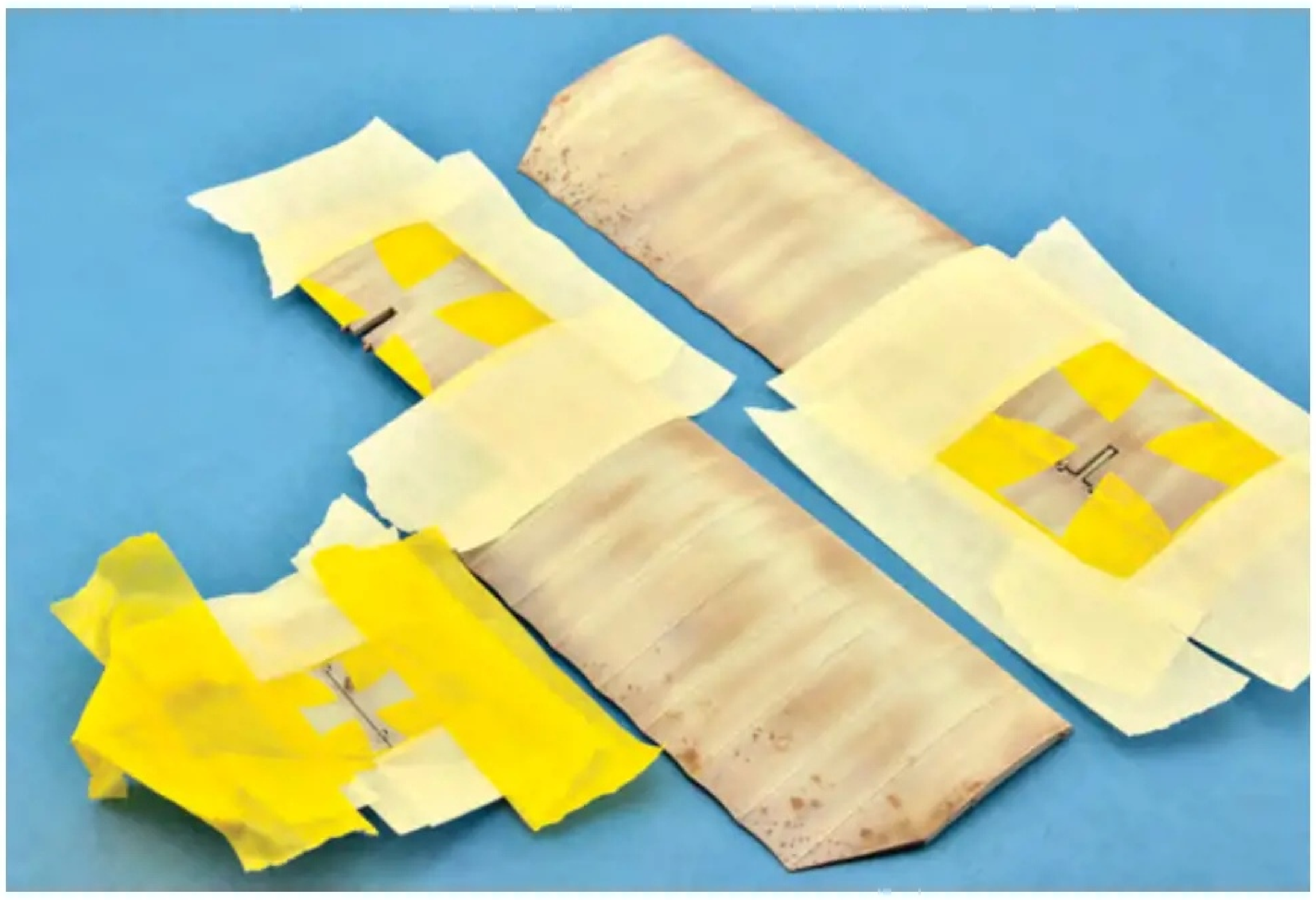


▲ The fuselage received a light overspray in the same light fashion and hue as the wings.

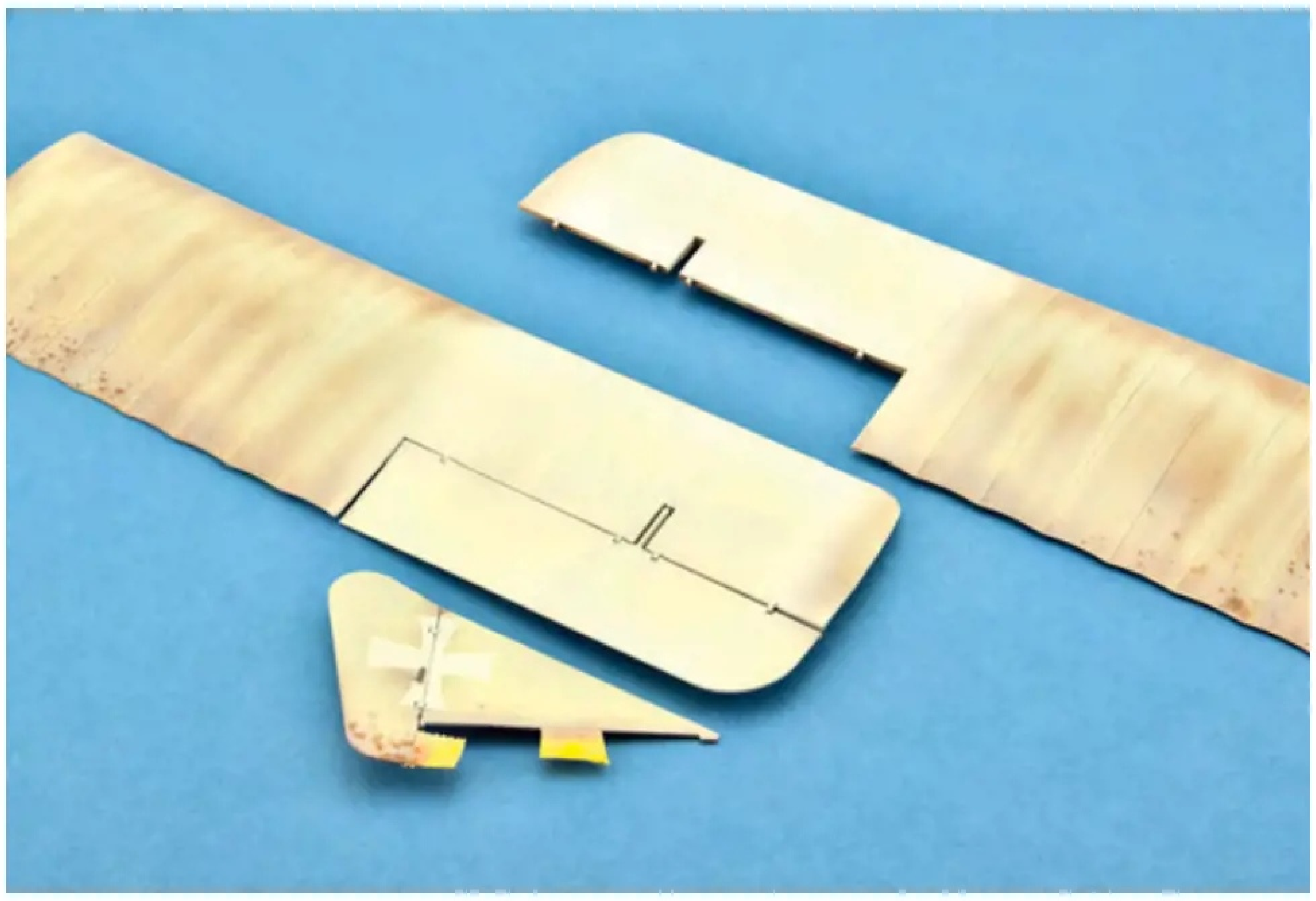
severe rust patches created from pigments; these were applied with a brush and fixed using white sprit.

Hardly any filler

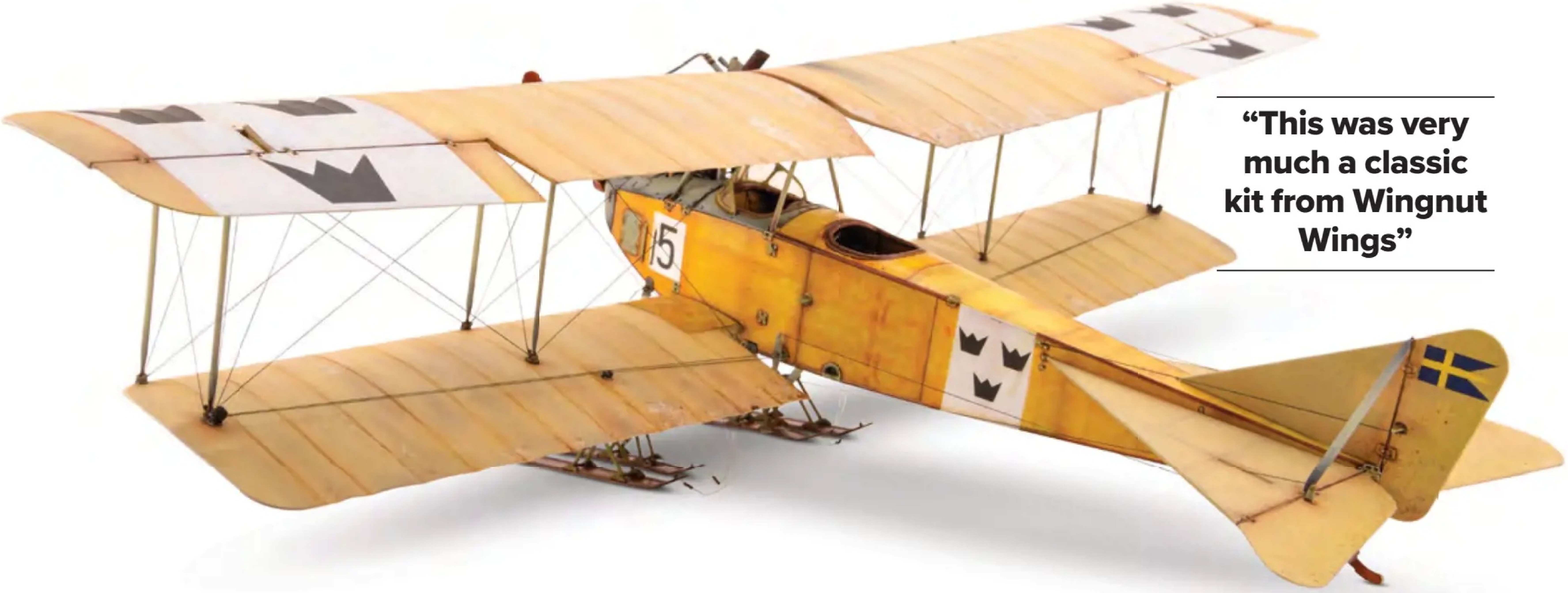
The interior assembled into a robust structure, which was located within the fuselage halves by means of positive 'tabs'. Closing the airframe was aided by elastic bands and a small vice (balsa strips were placed between the jaws and model to prevent marking the styrene). The fuselage was cleverly engineered, comprising upper and lower inserts that hid the seams. One key factor was ensuring the paint wasn't too thick on the mating surfaces, and the result was a fuselage that needed hardly any filler at all. The only area that needed any such attention was the underside of the upper wing, where two small sections (B3 and B6) must be attached at the innermost point. Here, the joins were tricky to sand, as there was a risk of ruining the neat rib detail. Other than this, neither



▲ German-style cross masking was cut from Tamiya tape and placed on the upper wings and tail in readiness for spraying them black.



▲ Once completed, the masks were removed and these sections treated with white until the insignia were just visible. The tail received a white cross instead.



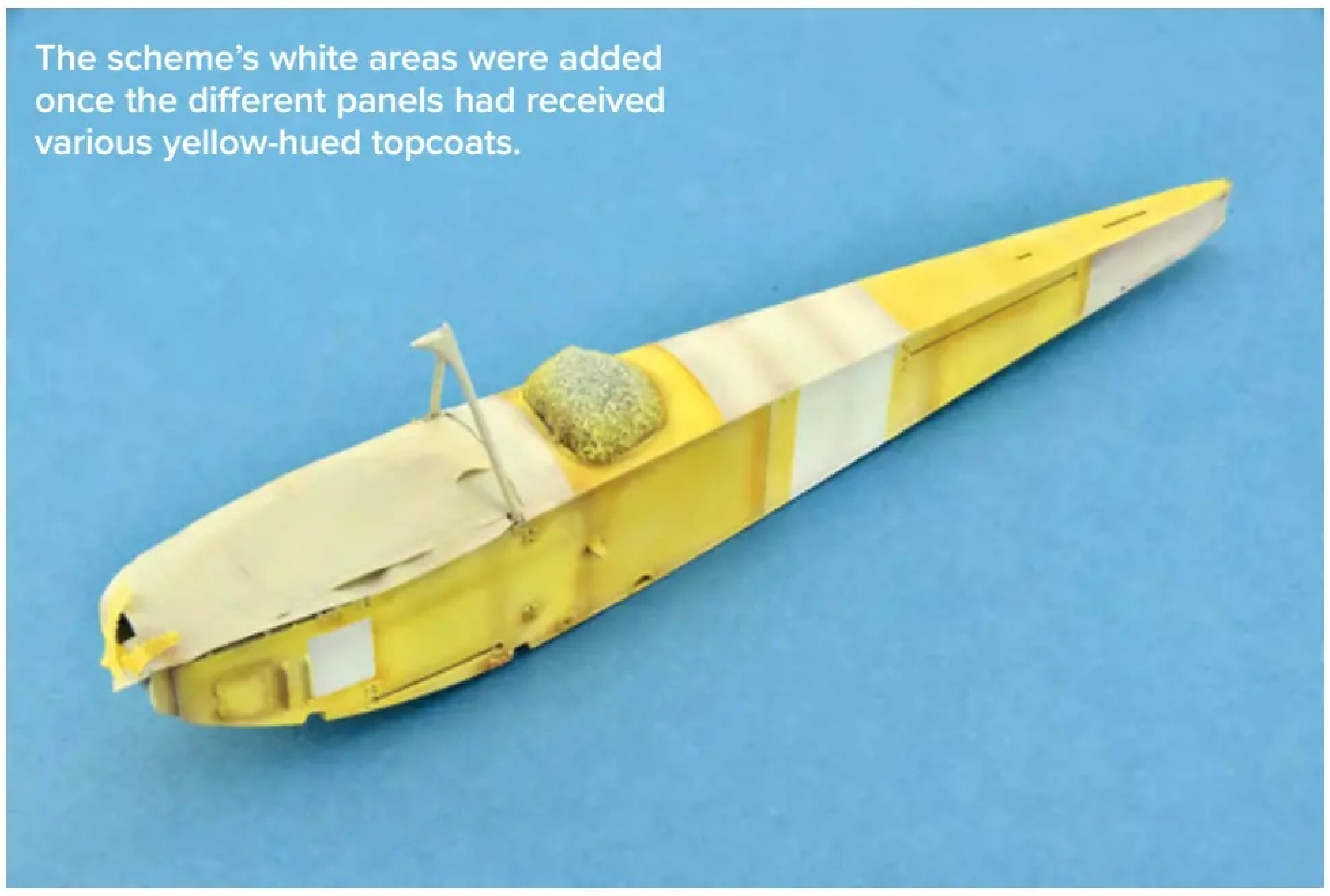
“This was very much a classic kit from Wingnut Wings”

the wings nor the tail needed much in terms of post-assembly tidying. Both lower wings and the tail were test-fitted at this stage and for added detail, the rudders were re-positioned by light cutting and bending at the join lines.

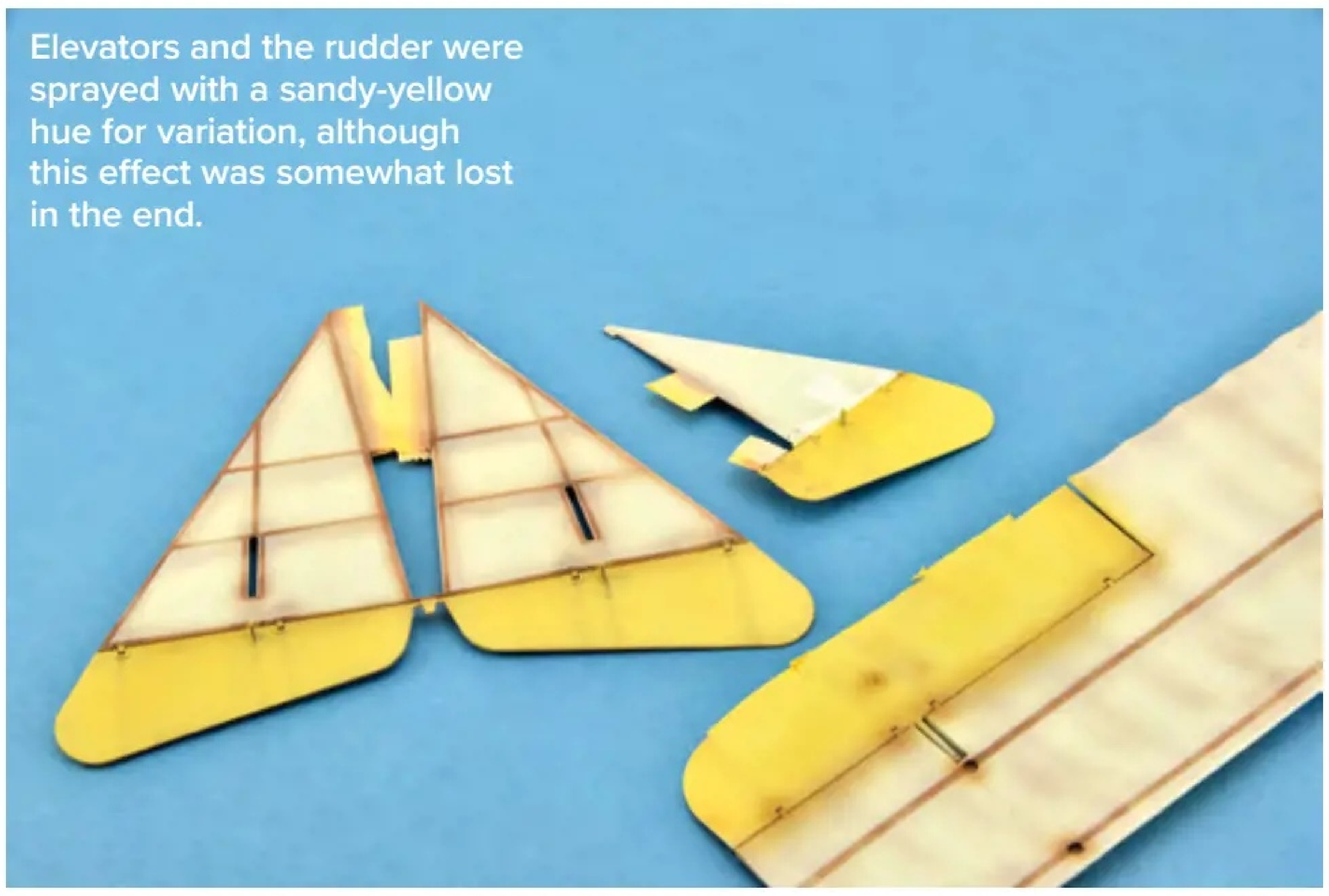
Multi-hued plywood

The colours of this particular Albatros were arguably somewhat bland, being just doped linen and plywood… not exactly eye-catching. However, therein lay the challenge – to create an interesting texture. The key was extensive masking and several layers of progressive painting and effects.

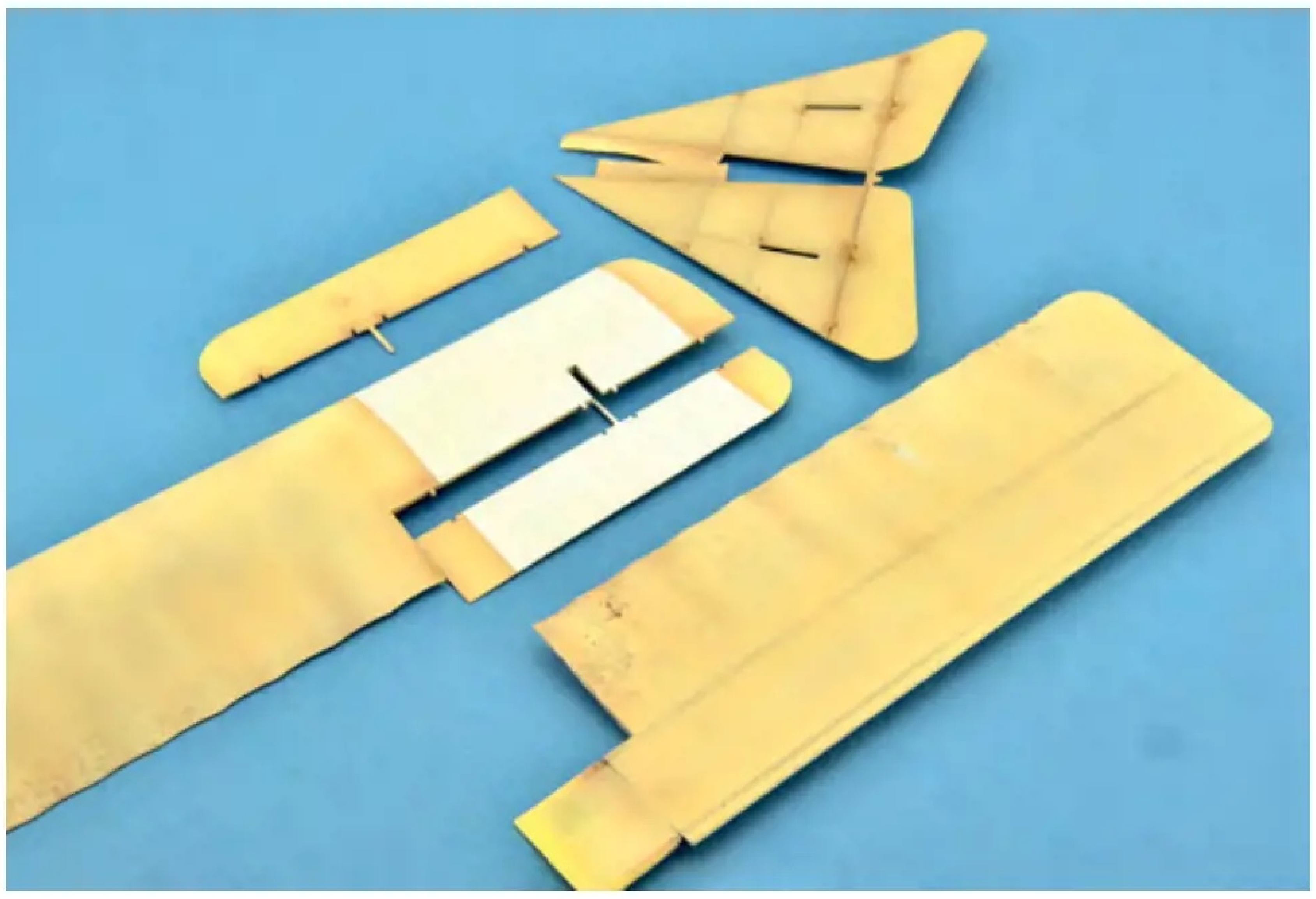
The fuselage and wings were first primed using a Tamiya ‘rattle can’, TS-68 Wooden Deck Tan. This was followed by a pre-shade layer of XF-68 NATO Brown, with several areas taped to create the impression of underlying structures. On the wings, a light dusting of salt was added along the inner trailing edges for chipping effects. A light coat of XF-55 Deck Tan was then sprayed, after which



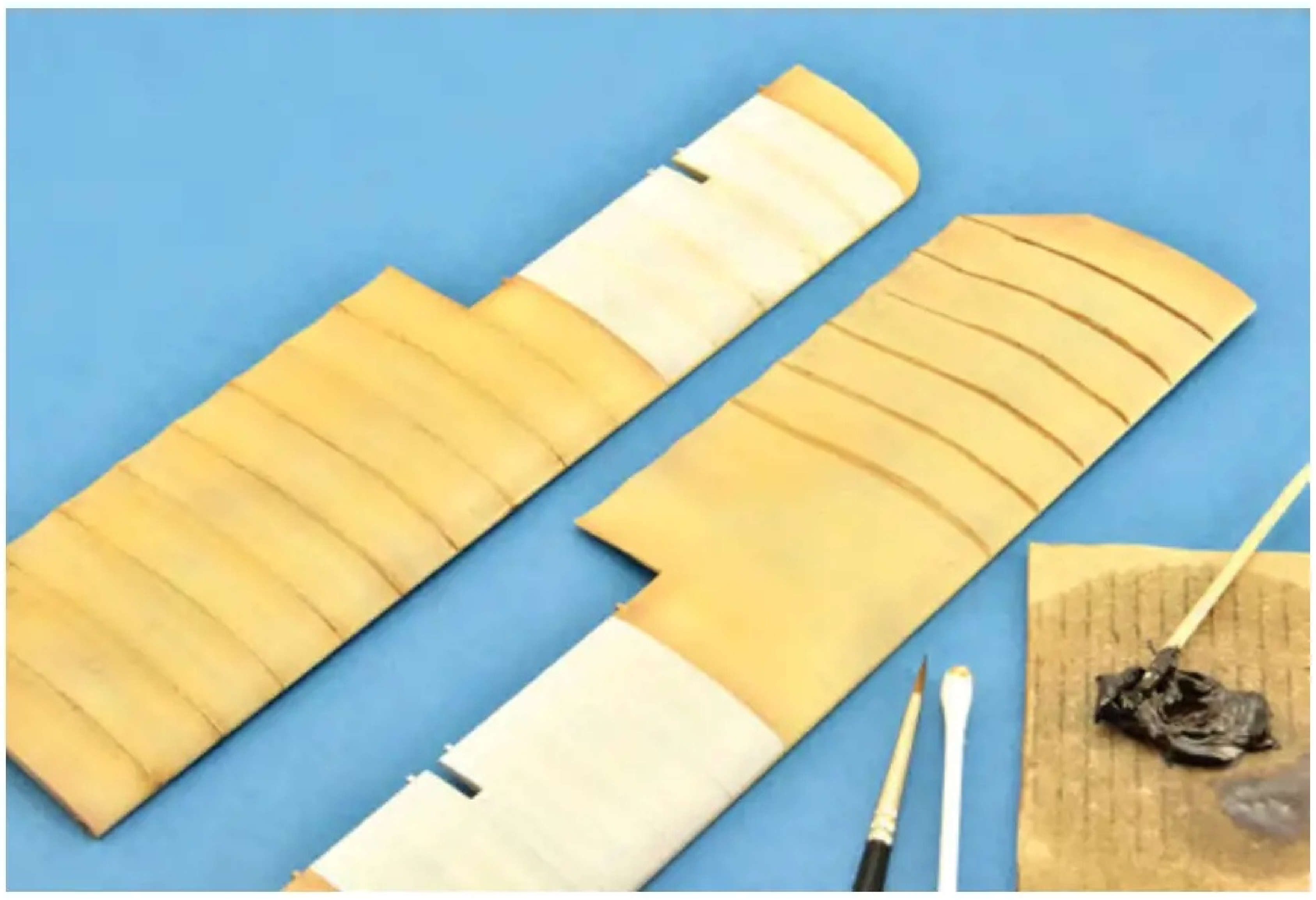
The scheme’s white areas were added once the different panels had received various yellow-hued topcoats.



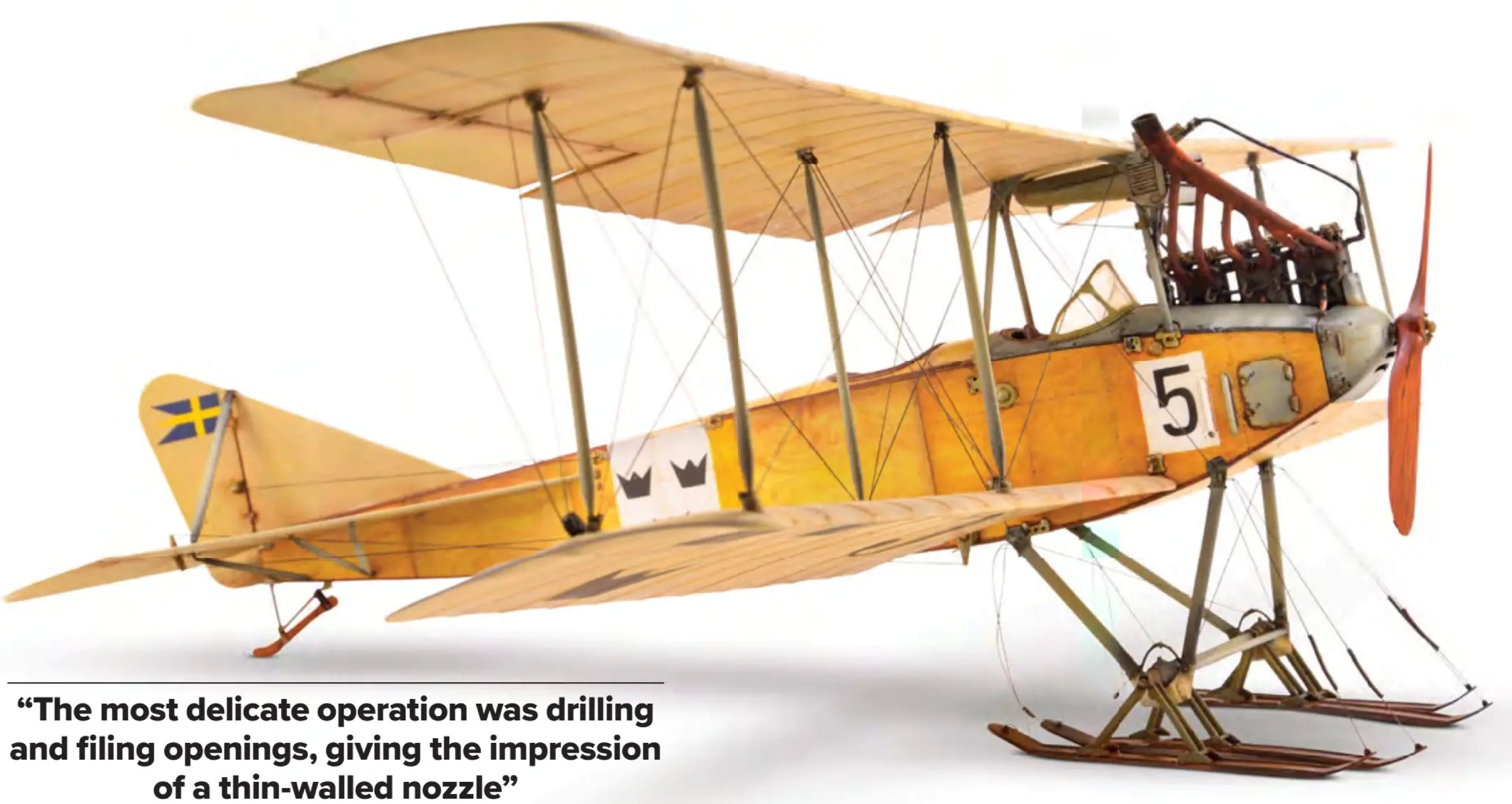
Elevators and the rudder were sprayed with a sandy-yellow hue for variation, although this effect was somewhat lost in the end.



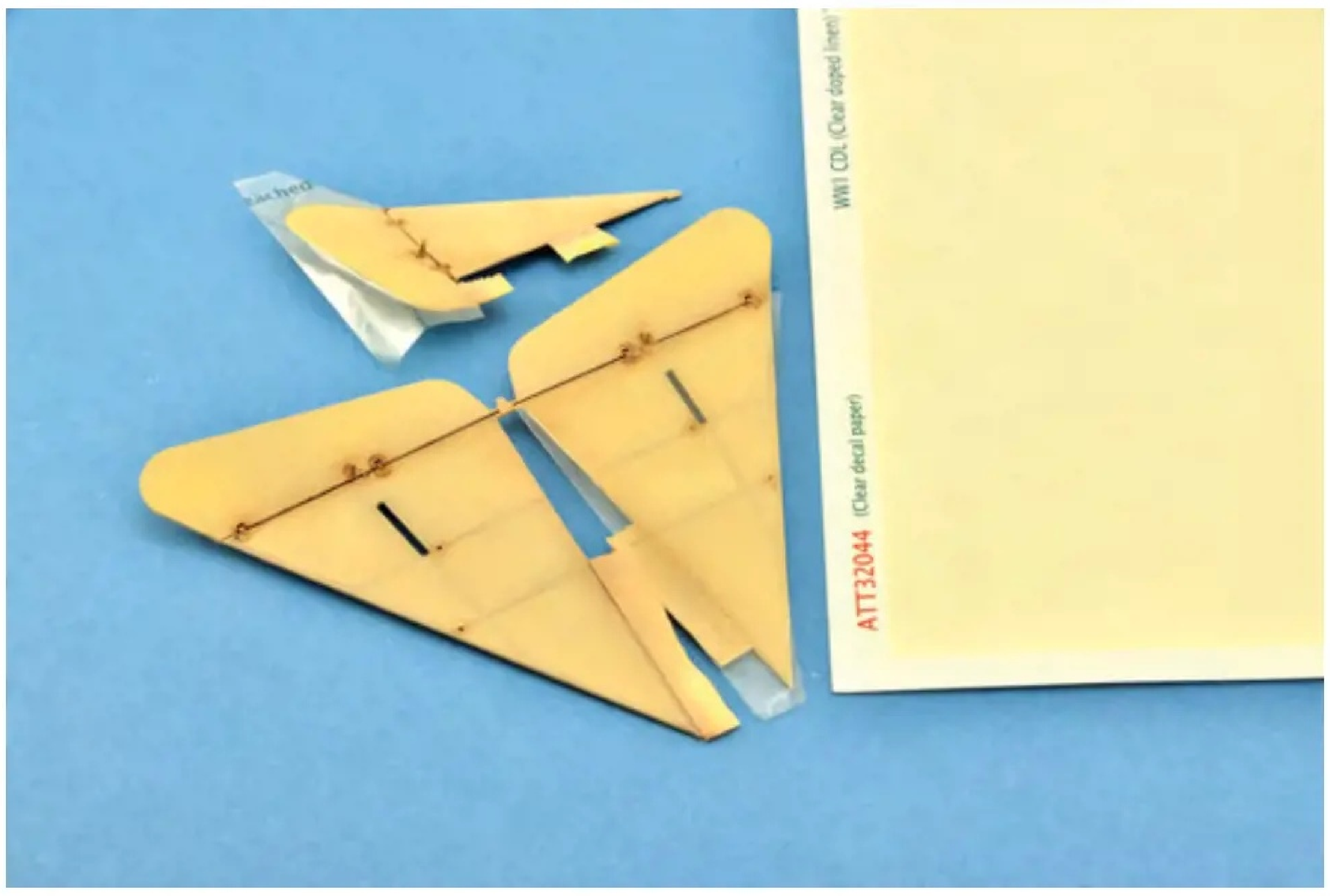
▲ The topcoats were a pleasing mix of several light layers of sand, beige and yellow hues, mimicking coated/treated linen.



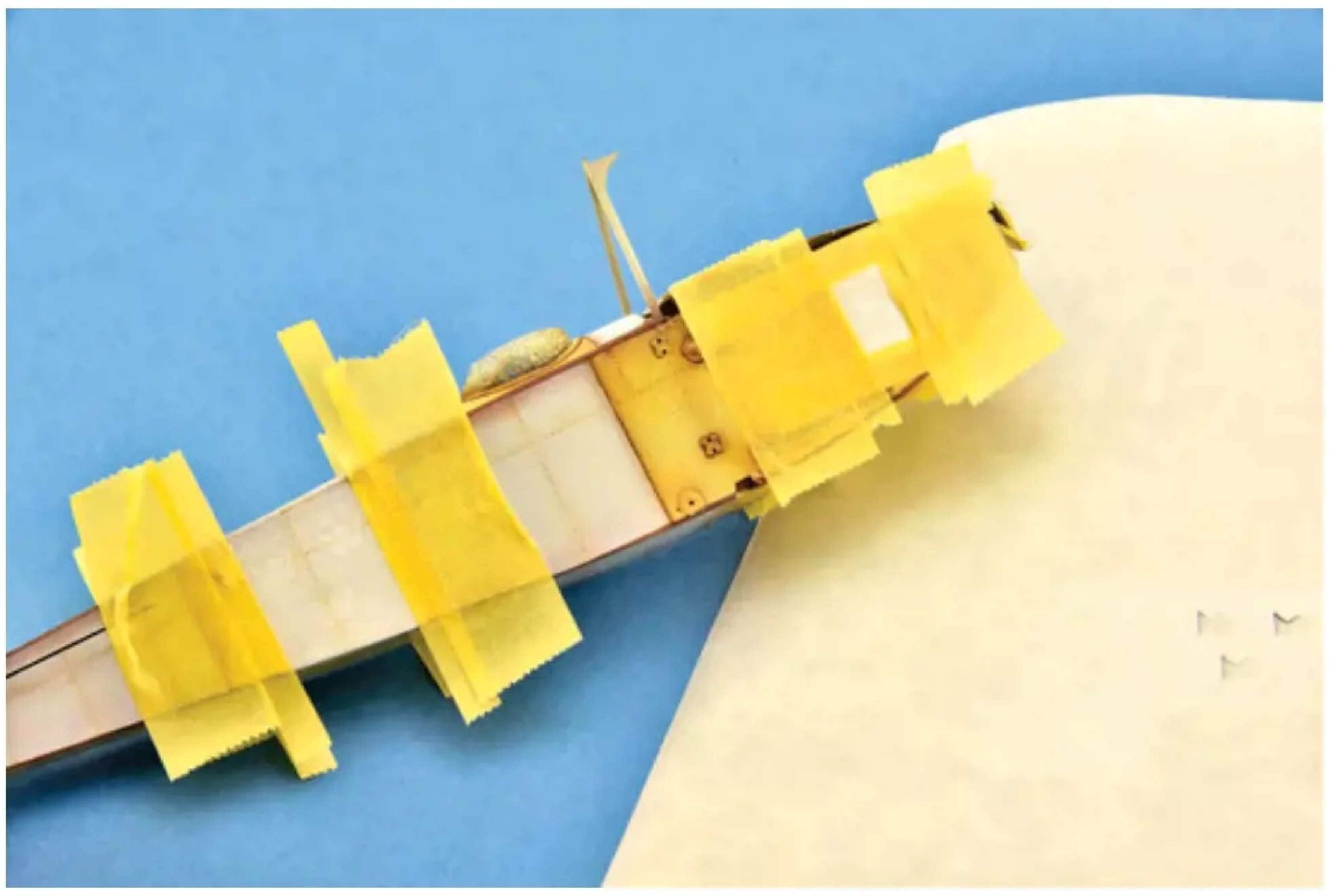
▲ Artists’ oils were employed to highlight the wing ribbing and stitching; the full effect can be seen on the left.



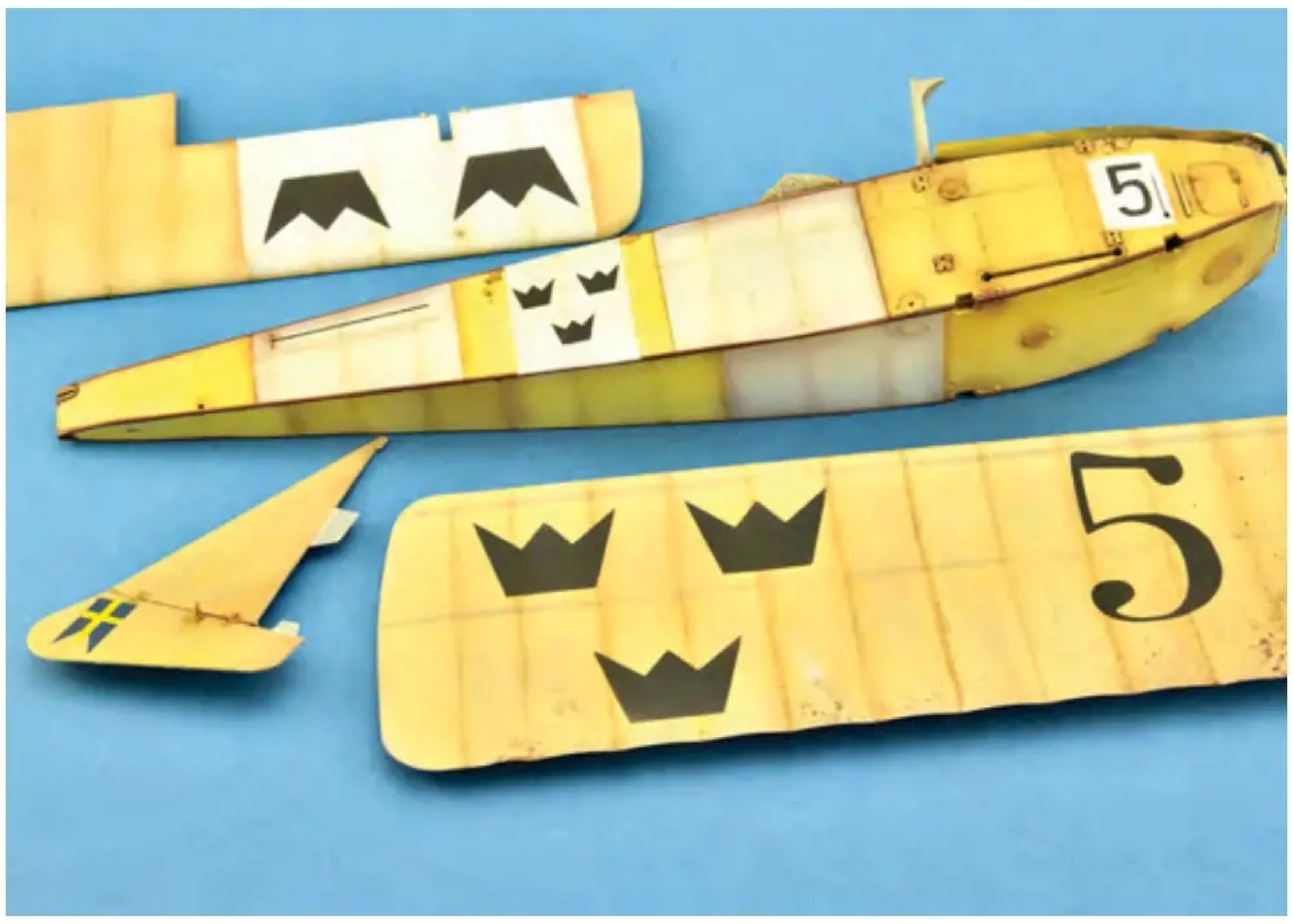
> **“The most delicate operation was drilling and filing openings, giving the impression of a thin-walled nozzle”**



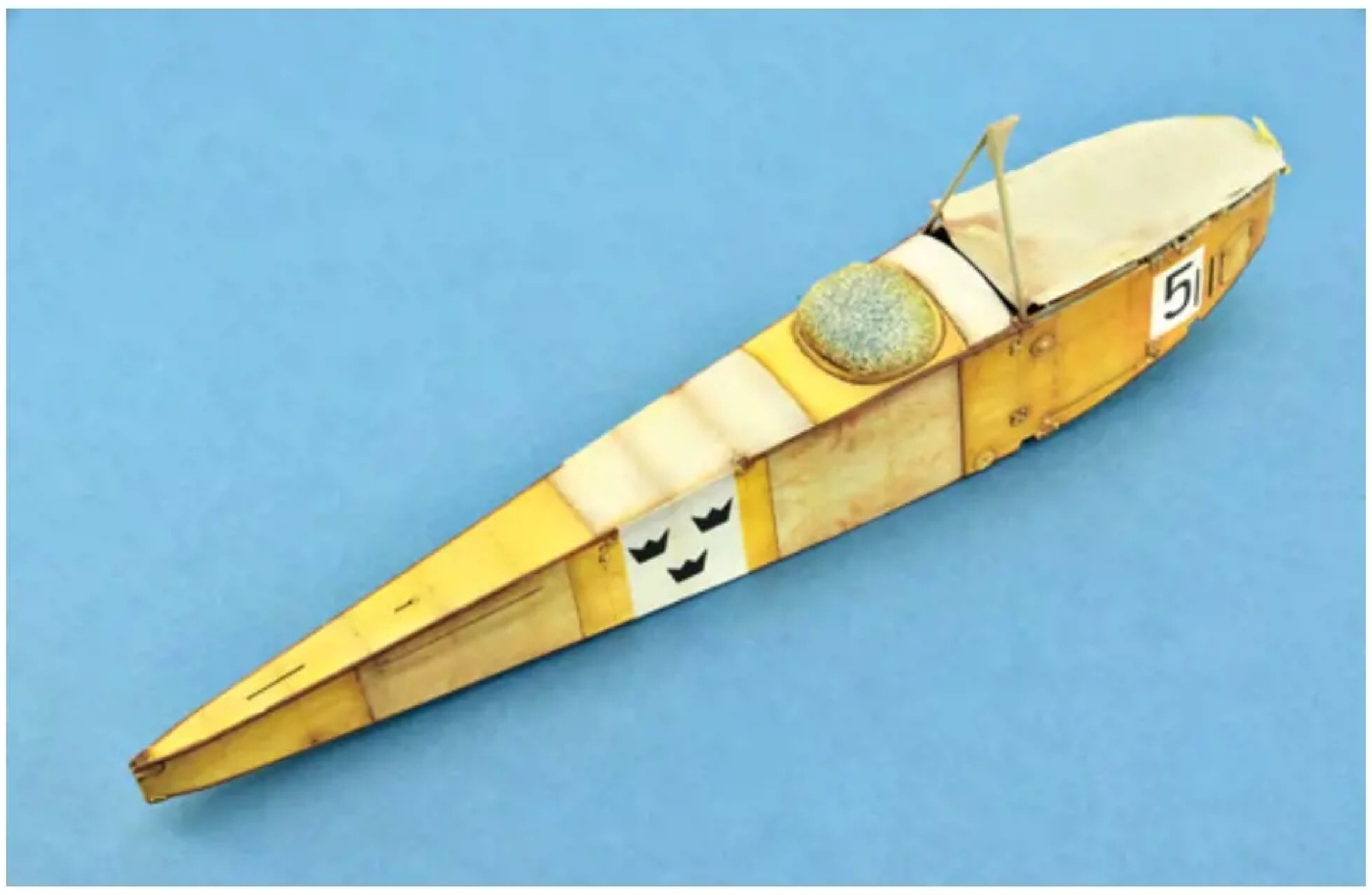
▲ Further surface variations were created via Aviattic’s clear-doped linen decals, which have a translucent finish.



▲ Using a cutting plotter, the Swedish markings were designed and transferred onto airbrush masking film.



▲ The result was pleasing, with distinct markings for a true painted effect.



▲ The fuselage in progress while applying the plywood decals. The lighter panels were later muted slightly as – unfortunately – they contrasted too sharply from their surroundings.

the salt was removed, revealing darker patches.

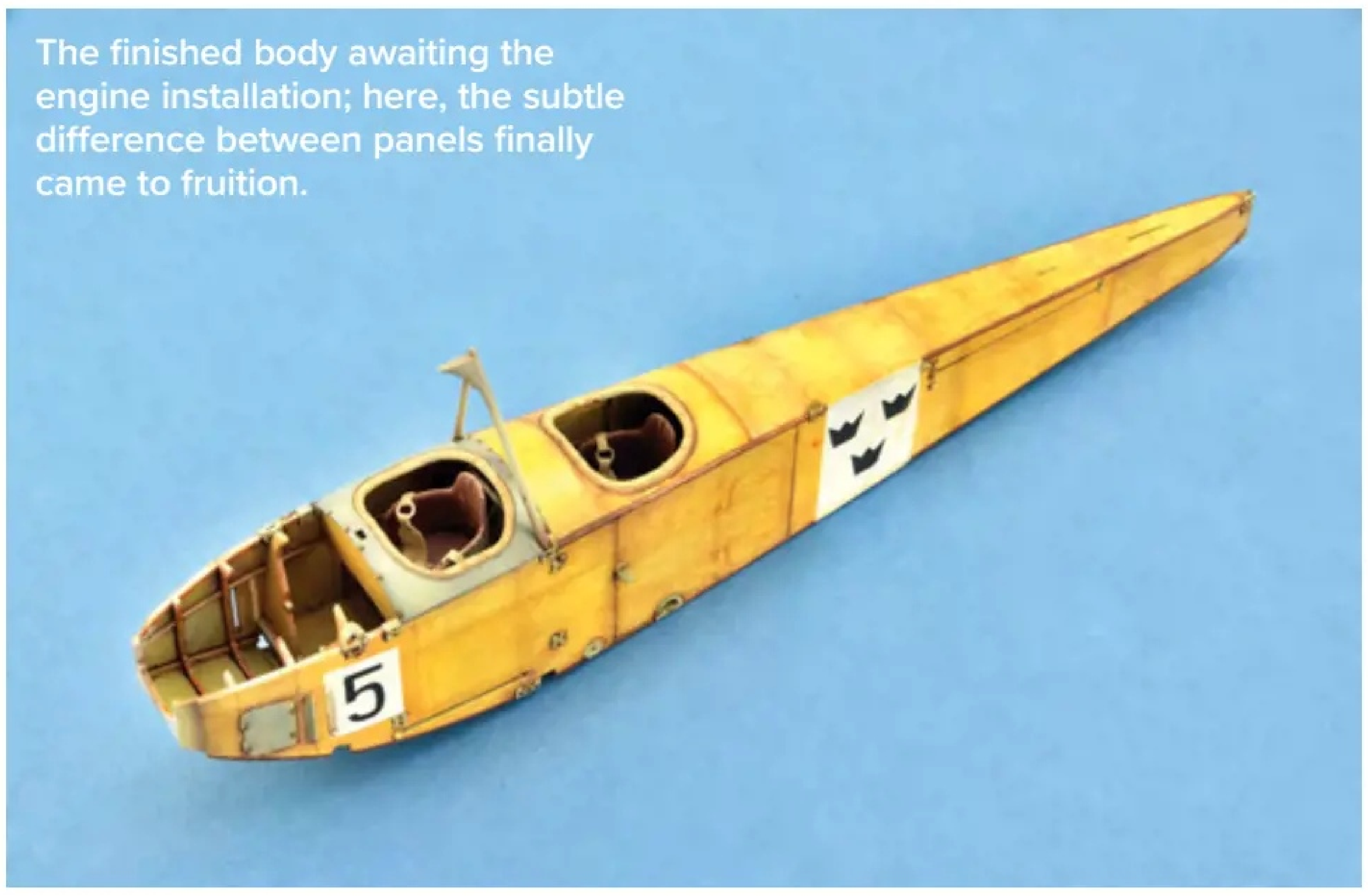
Top coats were then built progressively via beige and yellow hues, mixed from Tamiya acrylics. As this was originally a German machine, a little effort was spent cutting masks from Tamiya tape to create Eisernes Kreuz (iron cross) insignia. Given this aircraft would have been re-covered once in Swedish service, this was arguably a hint artistic licence. However, once the white foundations for the Swedish crowns were sprayed, the overall effect was properly subtle. On the vertical stabiliser, this appearance was created 'in reverse', replicating how this would look if the insignia was removed with turpentine, rather than over-painted.

No aftermarket markings are available for '05', so these were created using vector graphic software and a cutting plotter. Getting this right was almost a project on its own. The final touch was a Swedish-style naval insignia flag on the rudder.

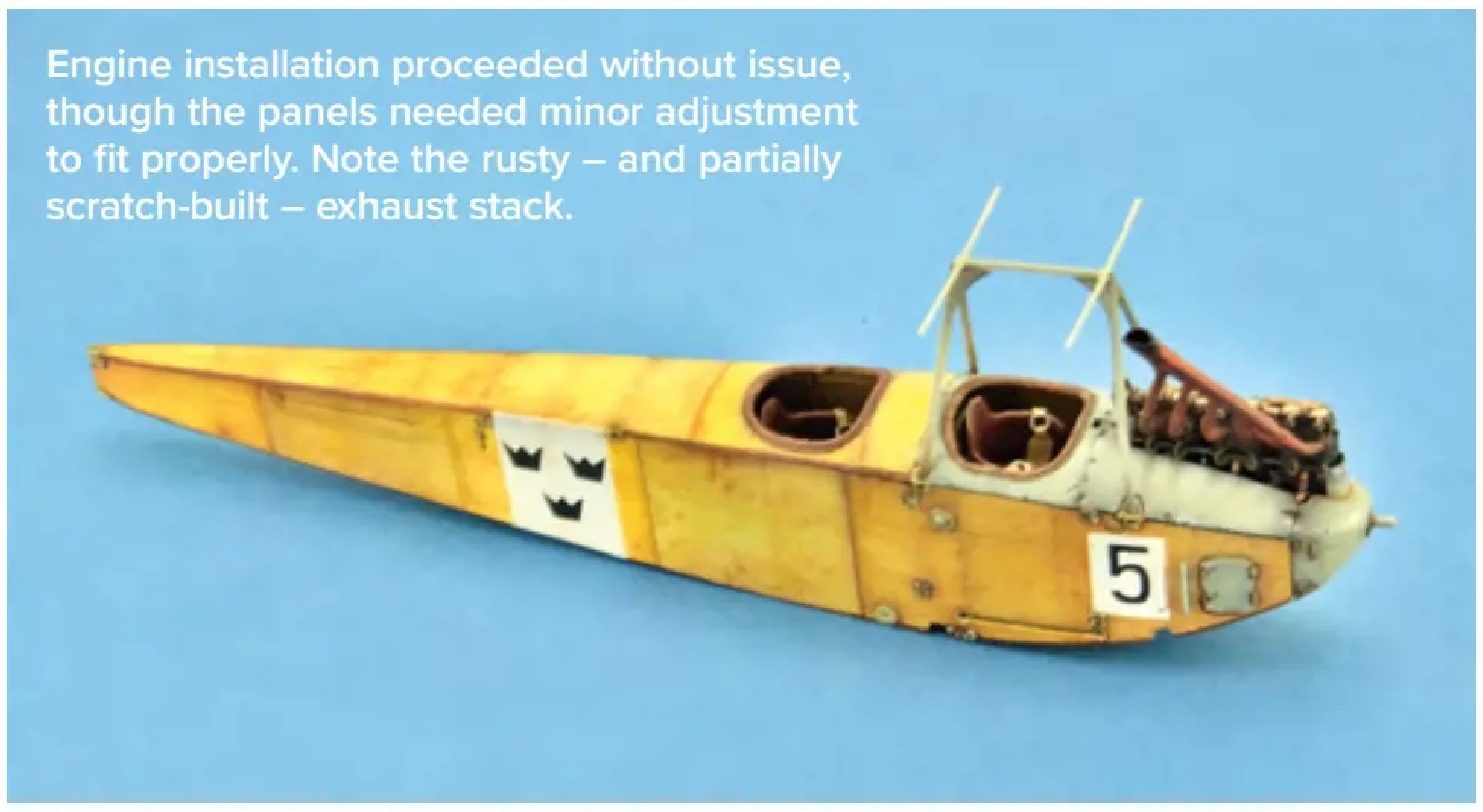
Fuselage panels were masked and sprayed with various tones of XF-55 Deck Tan and XF-3 Yellow, creating different foundations for the plywood decals – this being the reason transparent/translucent decals were favoured over the kit items. Each panel was then covered progressively with the decals, creating variations over the surface. In places, the contrast between adjacent panels was too stark, so was muted by a light application of X-23 Clear Yellow. Weathering was kept to just pin washes of Winsor & Newton's 676 Vandyke Brown, particularly along the wing rib tapes.

Skis and other bits

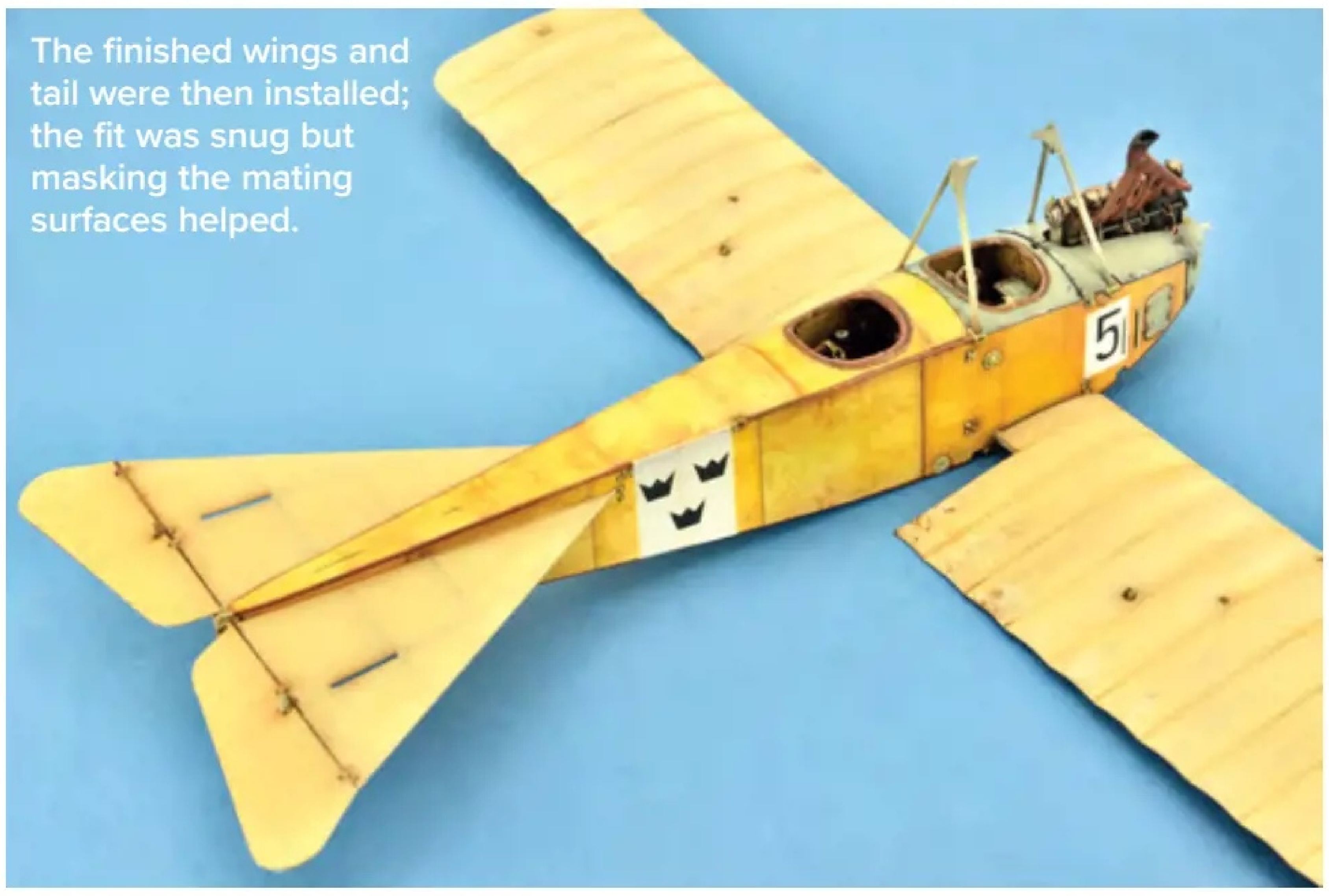
Designing and scratch-building the skis had been a problem postponed for the future, but as the main construction came to a conclusion, it was no longer possible to avoid. By mere happenstance, a coffee with a modelling friend led to an offer that was too good to refuse. He had been learning 3D design and printing with the goal of creating a range of accessories and



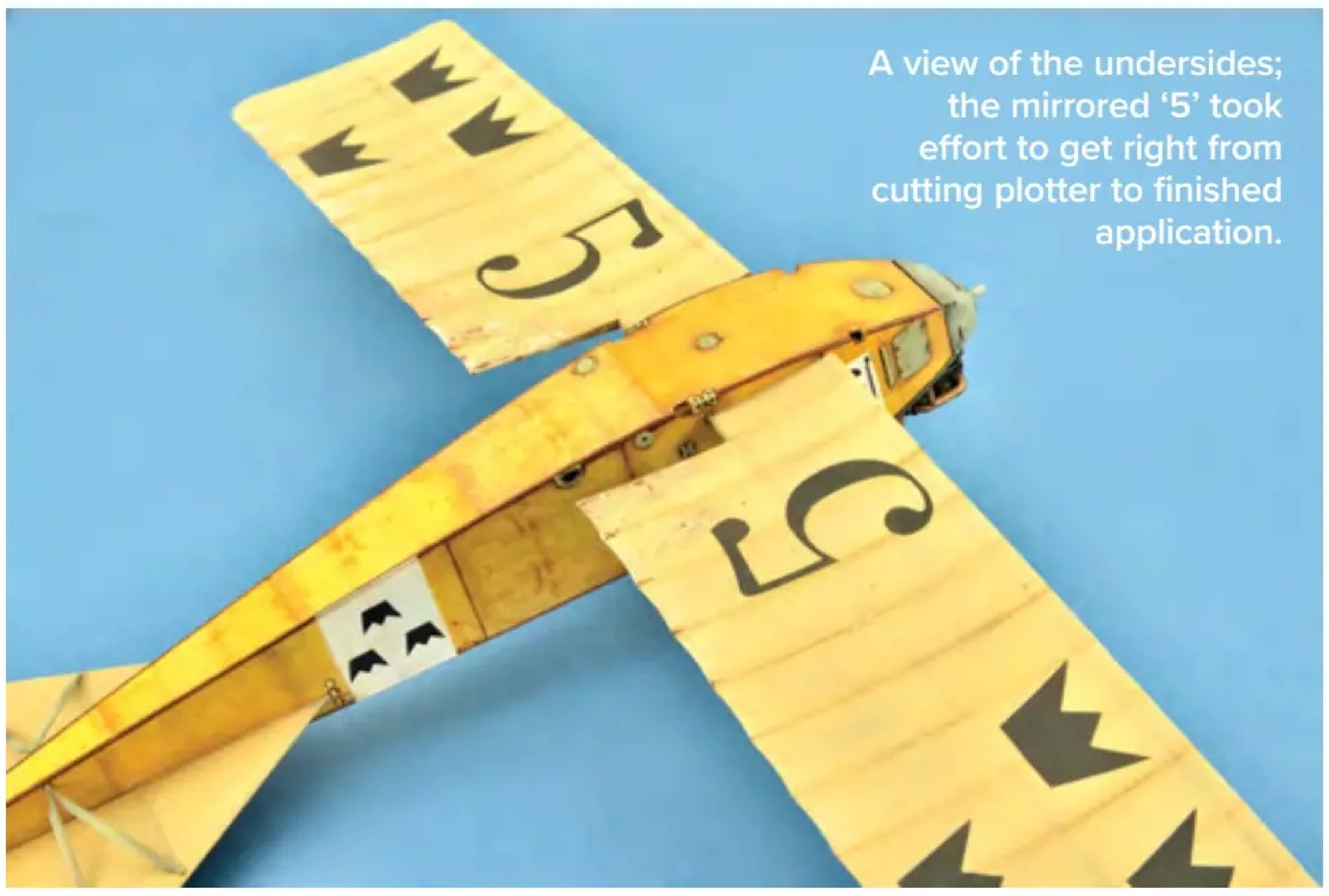
The finished body awaiting the engine installation; here, the subtle difference between panels finally came to fruition.



Engine installation proceeded without issue, though the panels needed minor adjustment to fit properly. Note the rusty – and partially scratch-built – exhaust stack.



The finished wings and tail were then installed; the fit was snug but masking the mating surfaces helped.



A view of the undersides; the mirrored '5' took effort to get right from cutting plotter to finished application.

MATERIALS AT A GLANCE

Alclad II (www.alclad2.com)
ALC-600 Aqua gloss Clear

AMMO (www.migjimenez.com)
A.MIG-2010 Scratch Effects

Aviattic (www.aviattic.co.uk)
ATT 32044 Clear doped linen effect

Bobs buckles (www.bobsbuckles.co.uk)
Rigging eyelets

Flying Bear (www.flyingbear.se)
32102 Skis for Albatros BII

HGW Decals (https://hgwmodels.cz)
Plywood decals
Textile seat belts

Revell (www.revell.co.uk)
85 Brown
89 Beige

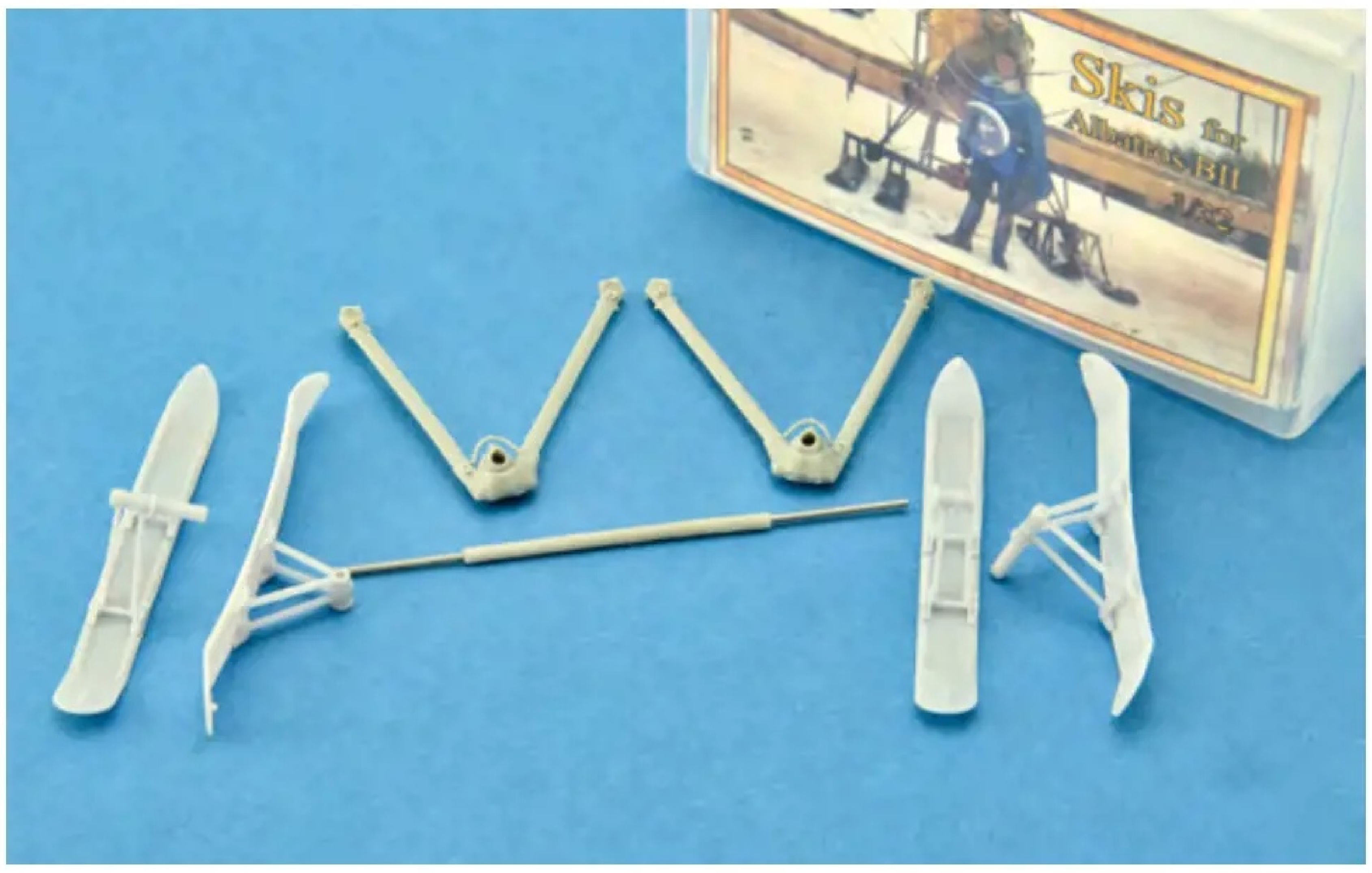
Tamiya (www.hobbyco.net)
XF-2 White
XF-3 Flat Yellow
XF-10 Flat Brown
XF-19 Sky Grey
XF-22 RLM Grey
XF-51 Khaki Drab
XF-52 Flat Earth
XF-55 Deck Tan
XF-60 Dark Yellow
XF-63 German Grey
XF-68 NATO Brown
XF-69 NATO Black
X-23 Clear Yellow
X-26 Clear Orange

Vallejo (www.creativemodels.co.uk)
70.957 Flat Red
70.973 Light Sea Grey
70.847 Dark Sand
70.982 Cavalry Brown
70.921 English Uniform
70.993 White Grey
70.991 Dark Sea Grey
70.950 Black
77.701 Aluminium
77.703 Dark Aluminium
77.710 Copper
77.725 Gold

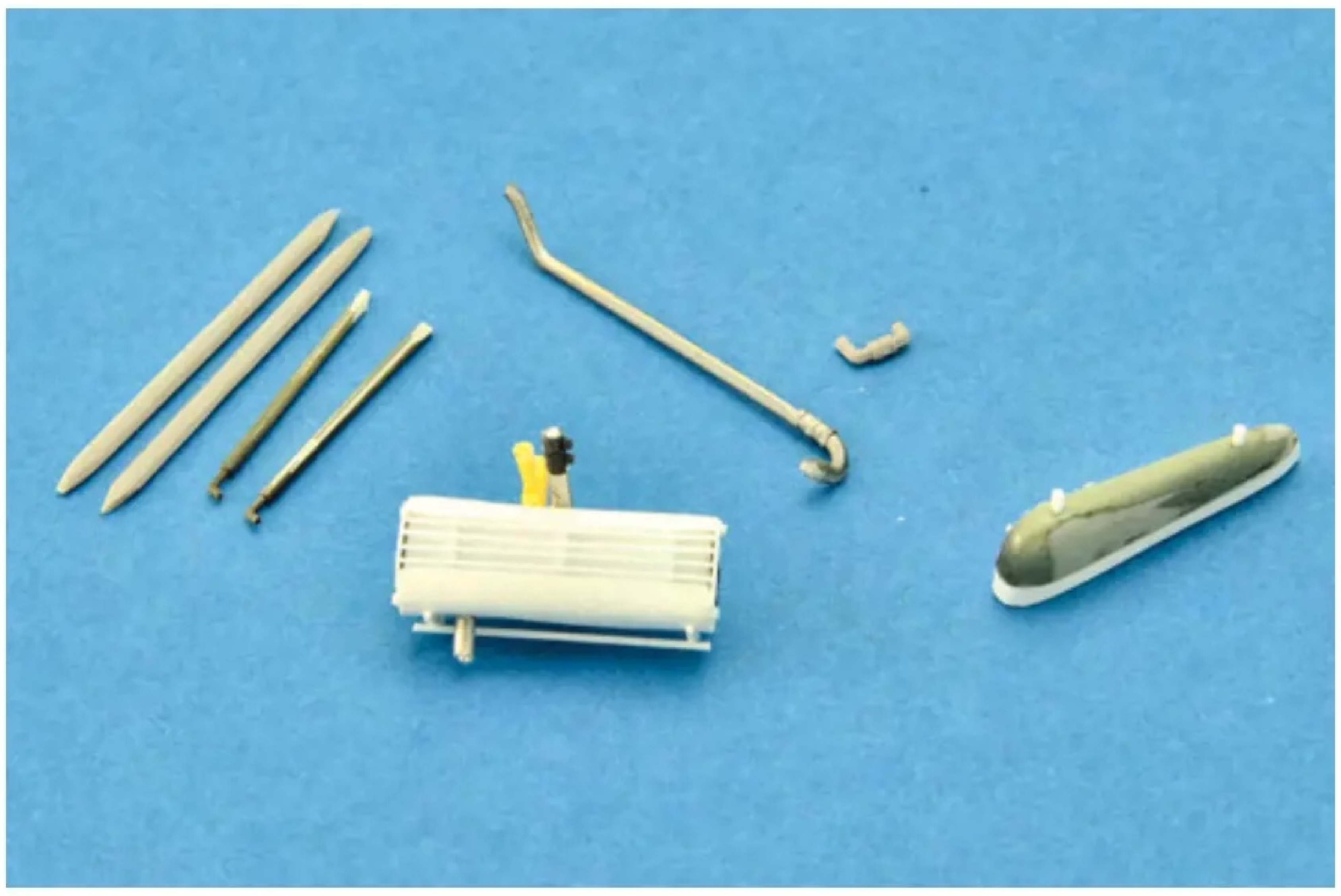
Uschi van der Rosten (www.albionhobbies.com)
Plywood decals

VMS (www.albionhobbies.com)
HD Topcoats Satin

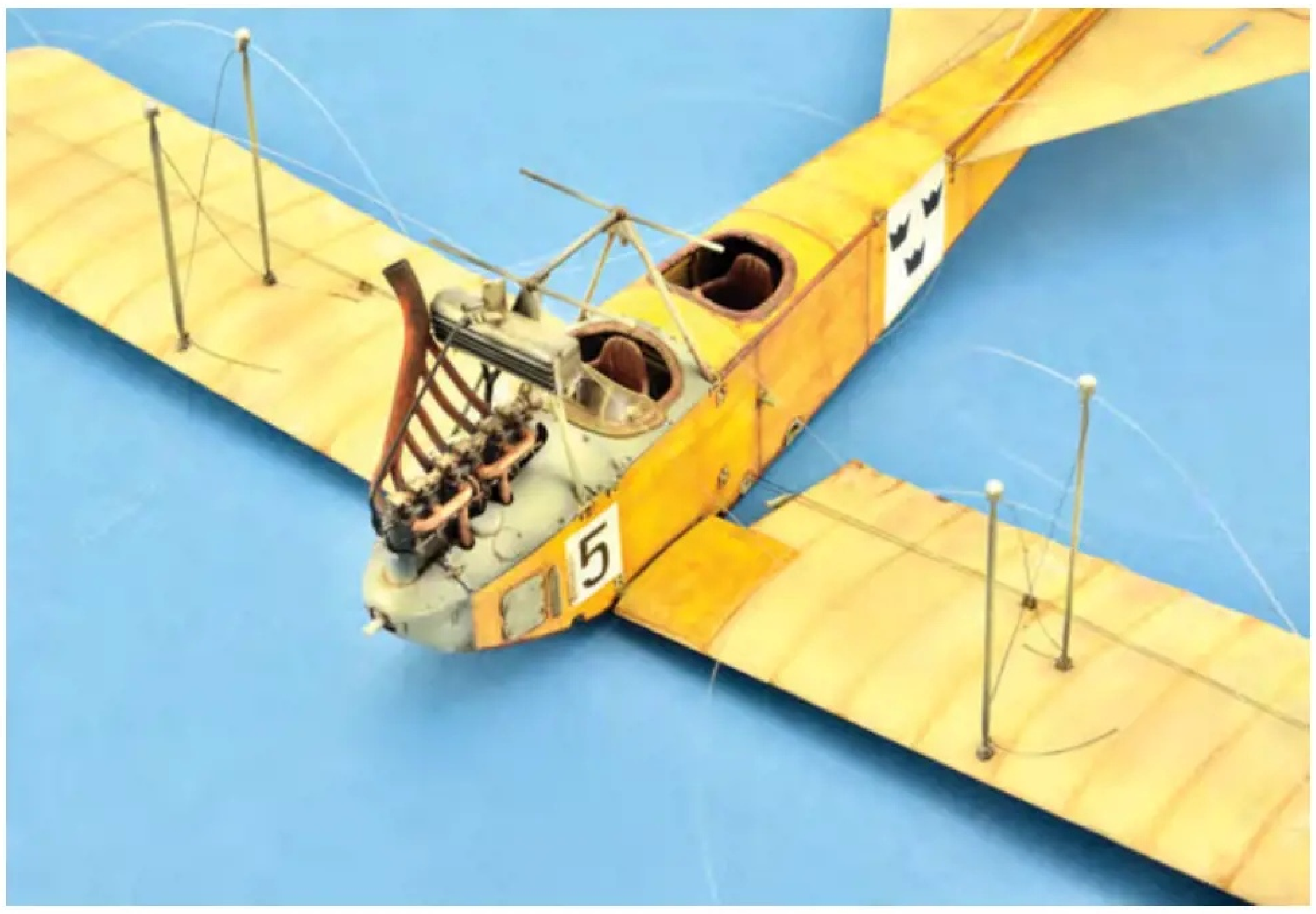
Winsor & Newton (https://uk.winsornewton.com)
076 Burnt Umber
331 Ivory black
554 Raw Umber
644 Titanium White
676 Vandyke Brown
678 Venetian Red



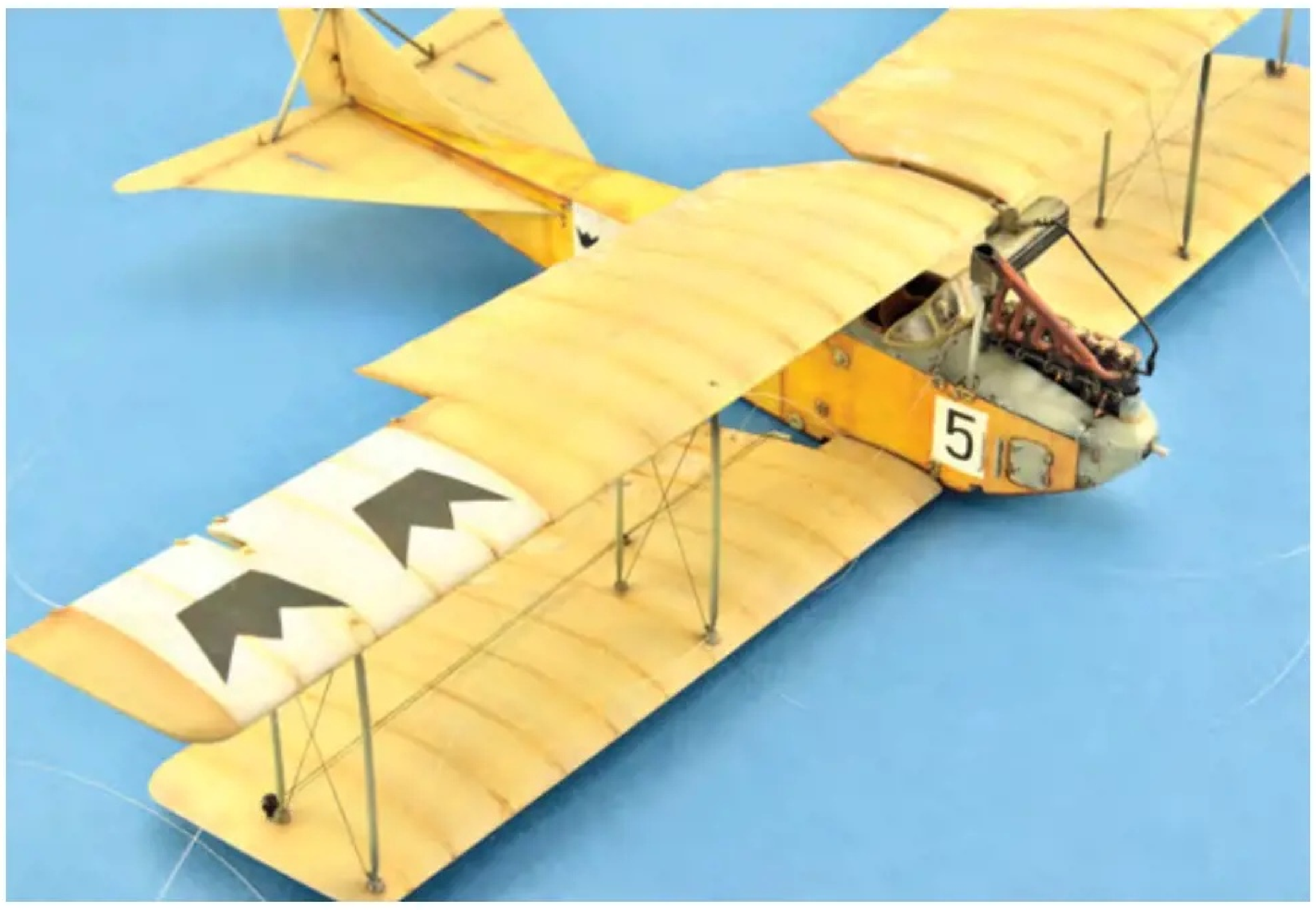
▲ The skis were a headache… until a friend with 3D design and printing skills came to the rescue, the finished item being much better than hoped. It's now available commercially.



▲ There is always more to a conversion than meets the eye. Scratch-built radiator and items from the scrap box are among the required modifications here.



▲ Into the home stretch: the interplane struts have been attached and pre-rigging work completed, including opening the rigging locating holes for stronger joins, in readiness for the top wing.



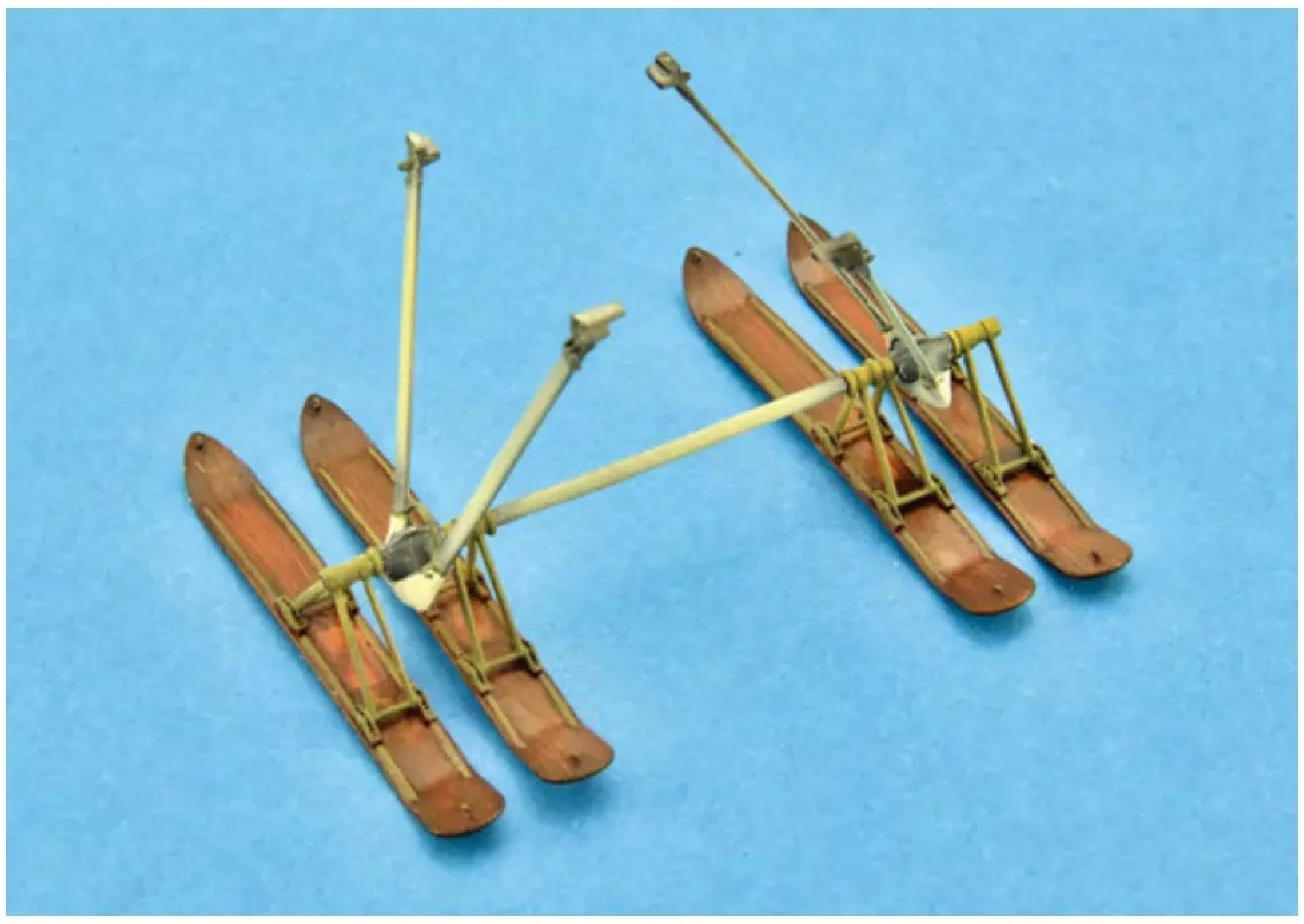
▲ Despite the delicate nature of the individual interplane struts, once the upper wing was in position, they formed a robust structure that bore the wing's weight without issue.

aeroplanes from the Swedish engineer Thulin. In short, he offered to design and print a pair of skis based on reference photos of '05'. The skis were delivered several weeks later and appeared to be superb, turning this build into a true multi-media project. Other items on the list of modification and scratch-building – such as the radiator and adapting some of the strut arrangement for the tail – were carried out in a more traditional fashion.

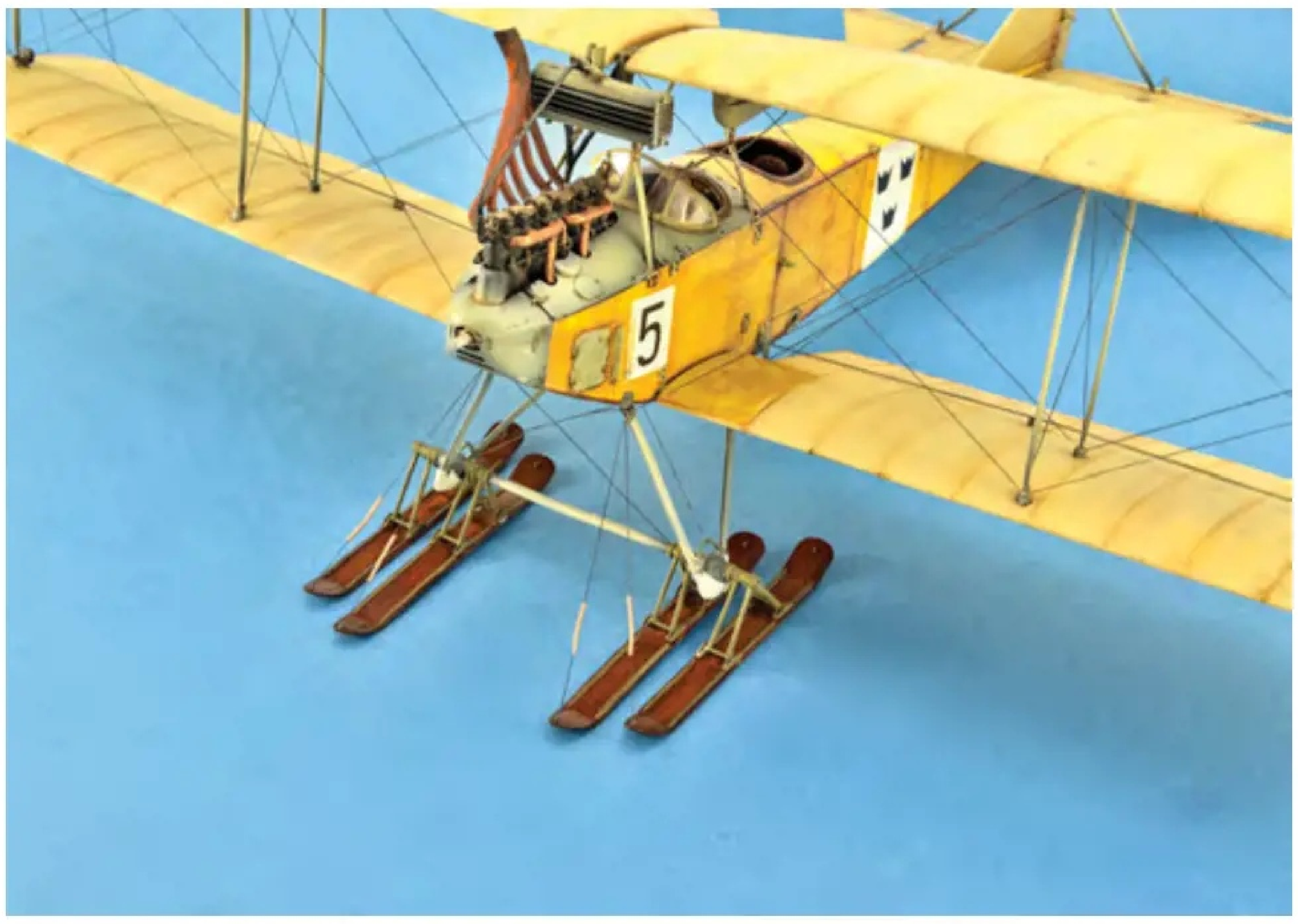
Bracing wires

As with most World War One aircraft, rigging was a major element. Wingnut provides pre-drilled holes for the bracing wires, but these were deepened with a 0.4mm drill bit held in a pin vice, to make stronger anchor points. Most turnbuckles were moulded integrally on the interplane struts, although several receiving holes had aftermarket versions from Bobs' Buckles added. All this pre-rigging work was added between pre-shading and final painting… you could wait until later, but then there's a greater risk of damage to the paint if a drill slips. After careful planning and drilling through the struts, it was possible to route the main rigging line before mounting the top wing. For these main rigging lines, 0.14mm monofilament fishing line was used, as it added a great deal of strength to the structure. Flexible EZ line sufficed for control lines plus any cross braces.

It was then time for the top wing to be attached… usually the stage most feared by biplane builders, but Wingnut's positive engineering made life easier. Any paint on the interplane strut tips (they were painted separately, earlier in the build) was removed, before they were test-fitted in their locating holes. They were mounted on a matchbox with their respective part numbers written on tape in front of each, to keep them in order. Small components, such as the windscreen, pipes and scratch-built radiator were also added. Once the upper wing was secured, the skis



▲ Skis and landing struts painted and weathered, awaiting installation. Later it was revealed they were mounted the wrong way round, which was corrected.



▲ The skis were rigged with flexible EZ-line, while the cable springs were formed by rolling thin copper wire around a mini-drill bit.

and undercarriage were also mounted onto the airframe, leaving the ailerons until last for easier access to the rigging.

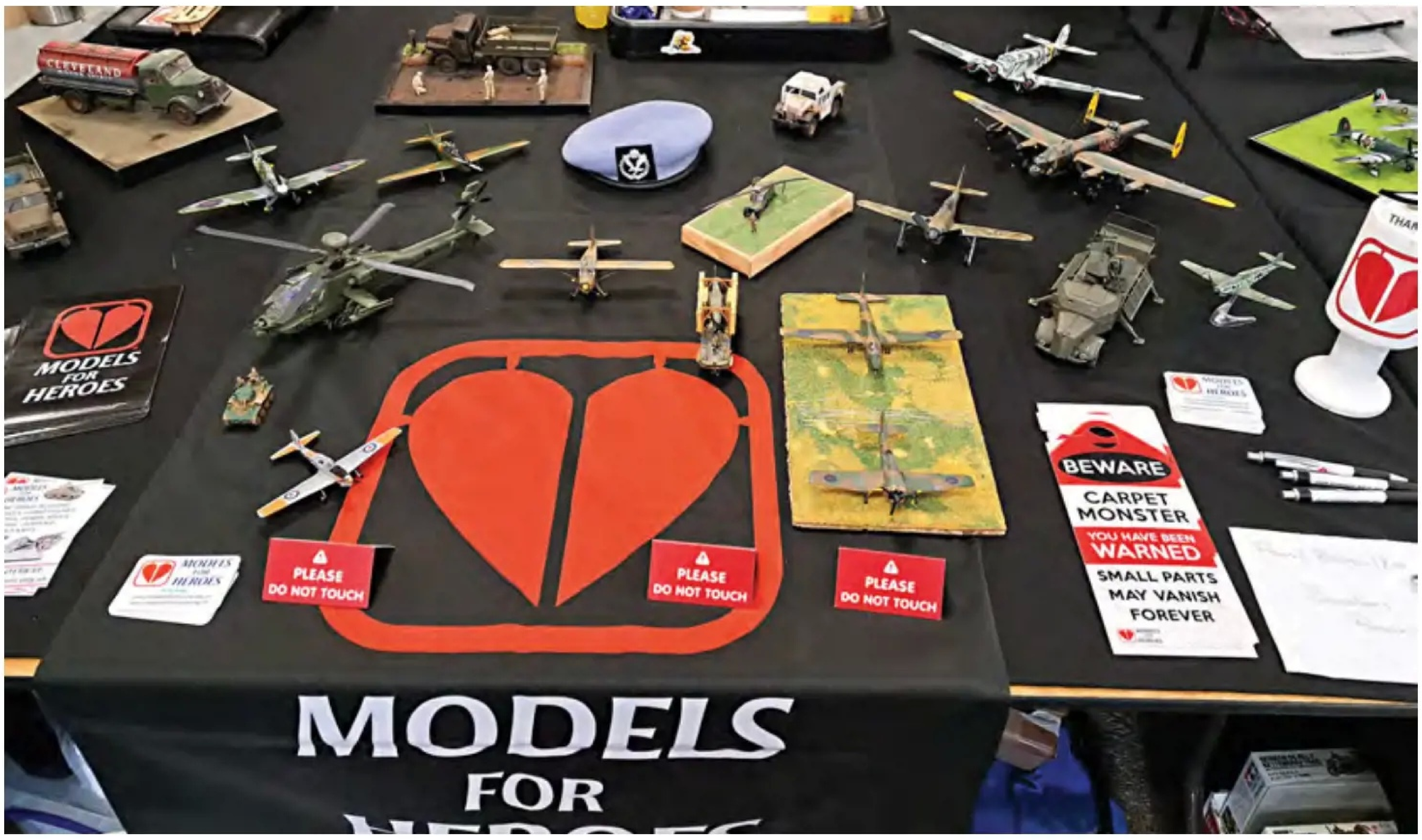
To build or not to build…

This was very much a classic kit from Wingnut Wings, being well researched and engineered, with crisp detail and an unprecedented ease of construction, combining neat touches, such as hiding the fuselage seams. But as this was a kit built by many before, the thought of creating something unique and Swedish was always the plan. The tricky element was the detail… a quick glance revealed differences between the kit and ‘05’ and a closer look highlighted several additional modifications. Admittedly, not all were executed in the end, such as control cable routing and the omission of several fittings.

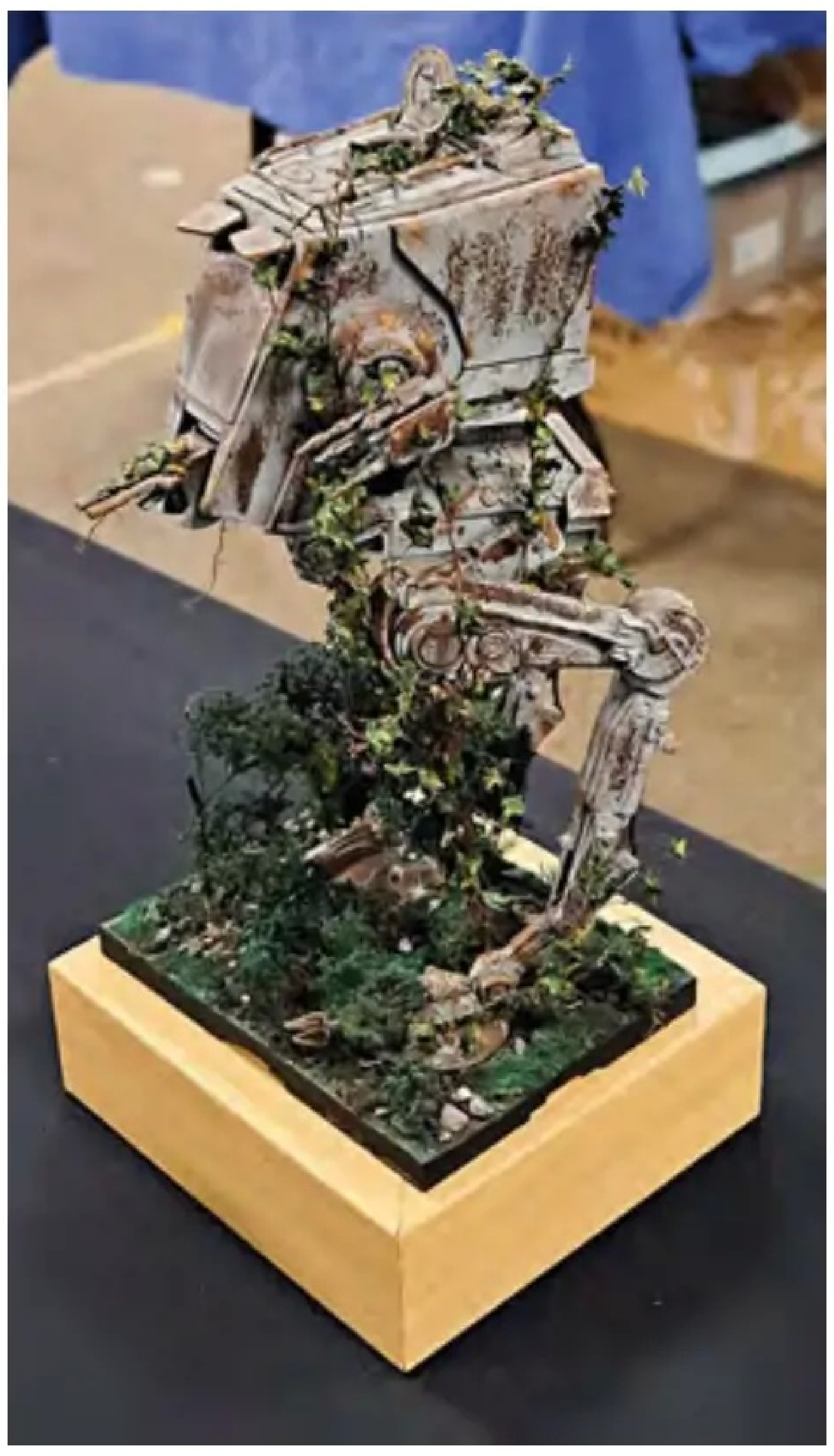
Needless to say, as with most Wingnut Wings builds, this was a pleasant experience, with no real issues. The engineering helped the modeller along, rather than creating obstacles, allowing me to concentrate on the fun element – painting and weathering and making conversions. The skis, 3D-designed and printed by my friend Björn from Flying Bear, were a boon and, with hindsight, I could never have scratch-built anything remotely as good. So, if the Albatros B.II is part of your stash – should you assemble it or save it as an investment? Well, if you ask me, it would be a shame not to build, as it was a delightful kit which looks splendid on the shelf.

> **“As with most World War One aircraft, rigging was a major element”**

STAFFORD EXTRAVAGANZA



◀ The Models for Heroes stand featured an Army Air Corps theme, with exhibits built by its Derby branch. Among the varied models was at least one by a military veteran contributor who'd never built a kit before.

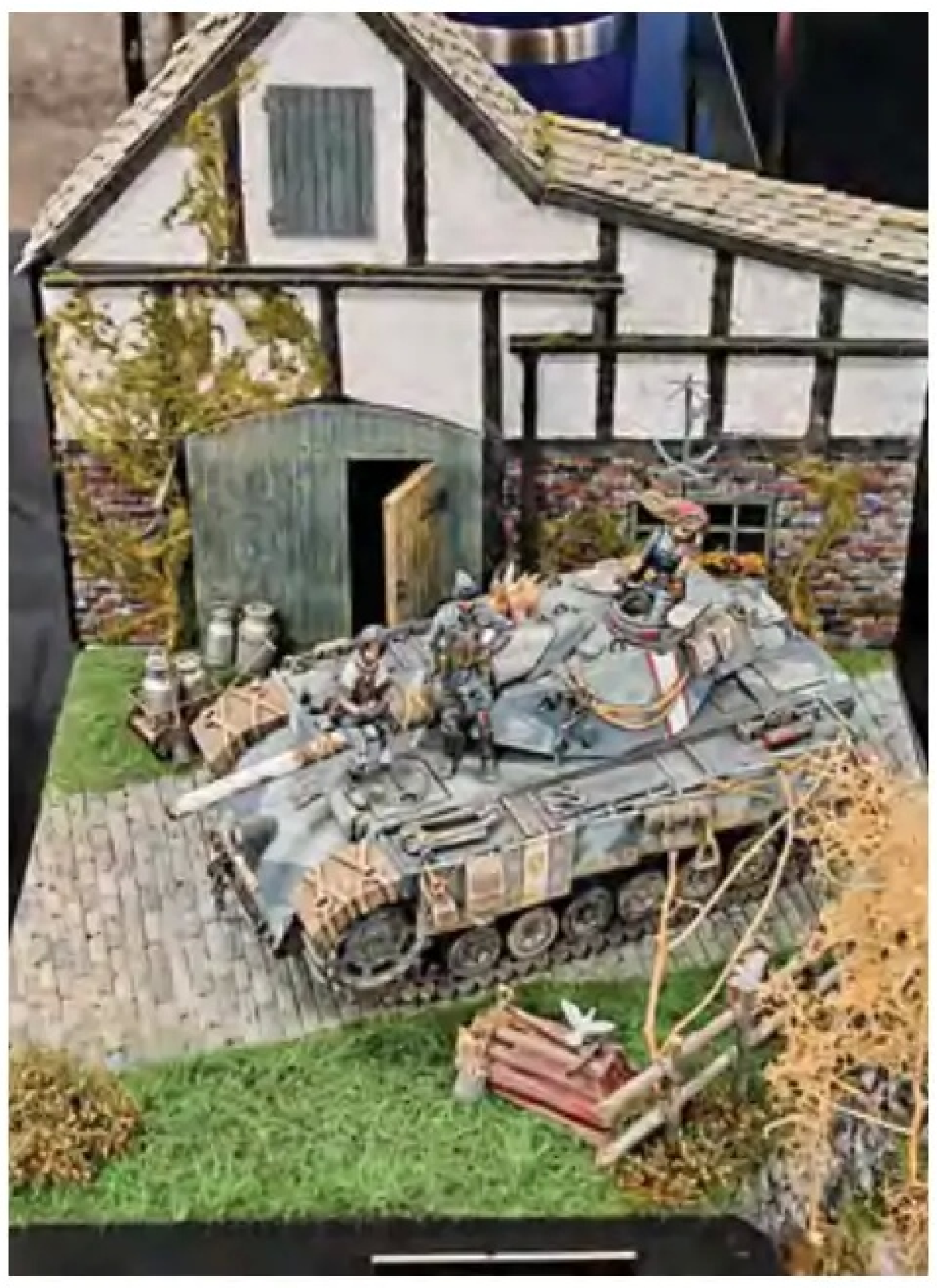


▲ Bandai's 1/48 AT-ST from the *Star Wars* saga served as the modelling canvas for Crewe + District's Craig Roughley, who imagined it as an abandoned machine on the moon of Endor after the Empire's defeat, with the forest vegetation slowly reclaiming the Scout Walker.

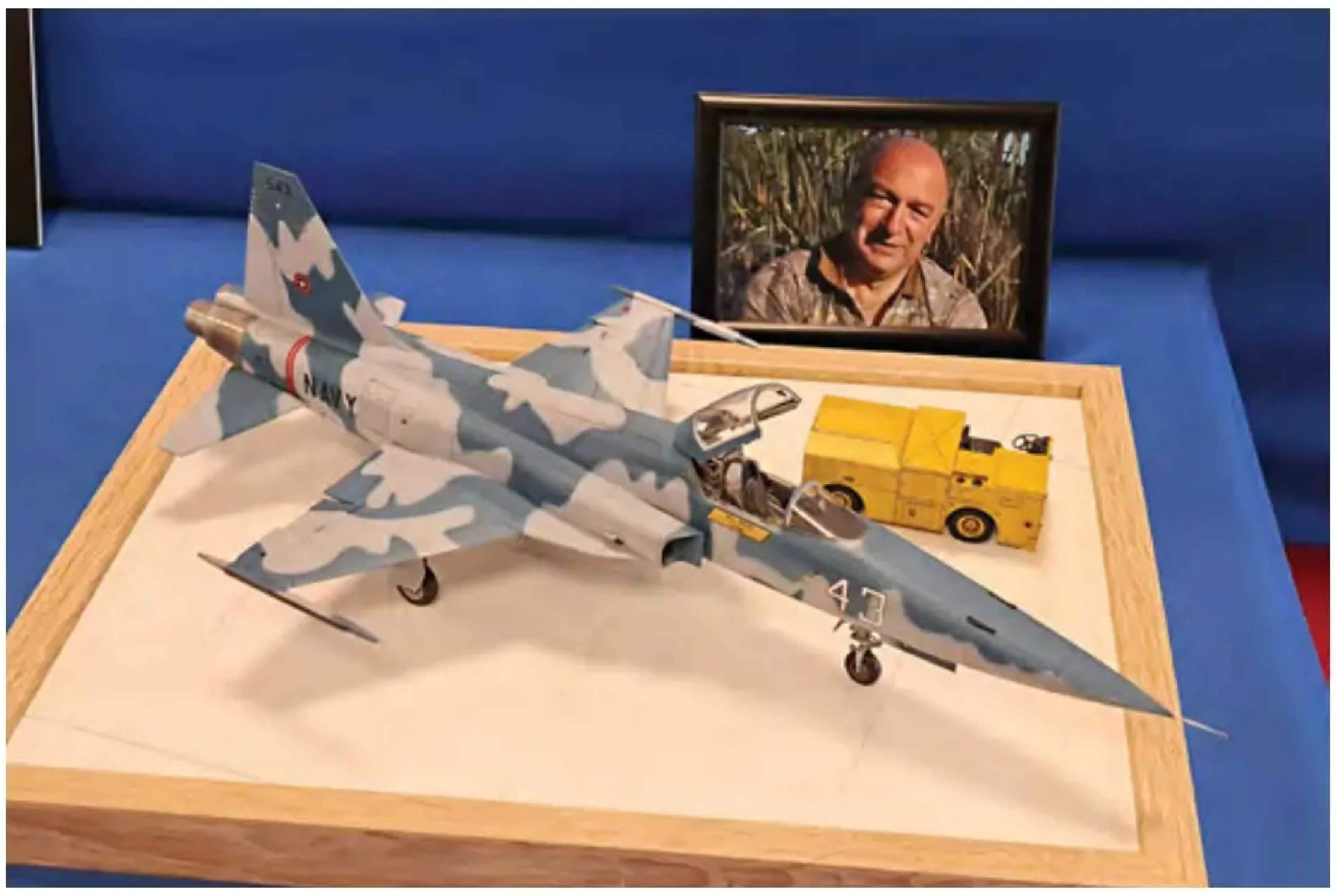
Stoke-on-Trent's annual show has often been the opening event following the summer 'recess' through late July and early August, and it's always a relaxing occasion. This year was no different and there was a cracking selection of clubs, special interest groups and traders arranged around the single large hall, including one or two names that were new to me, which hopefully means the hobby is continuing to expand. There was plenty for all to see, with themed displays on several tables, from Bolton's focus on US naval aviation through to the Models for Heroes' Army Air Corps collection.

If your aim was for more of a leisurely day out, then an antiques fair – held in a nearby building – was also tempting, while the adjacent café was busy throughout the day with an almost constant demand for beverages and snacks. Planning is already underway for next year's show, which promises to be even bigger and better.

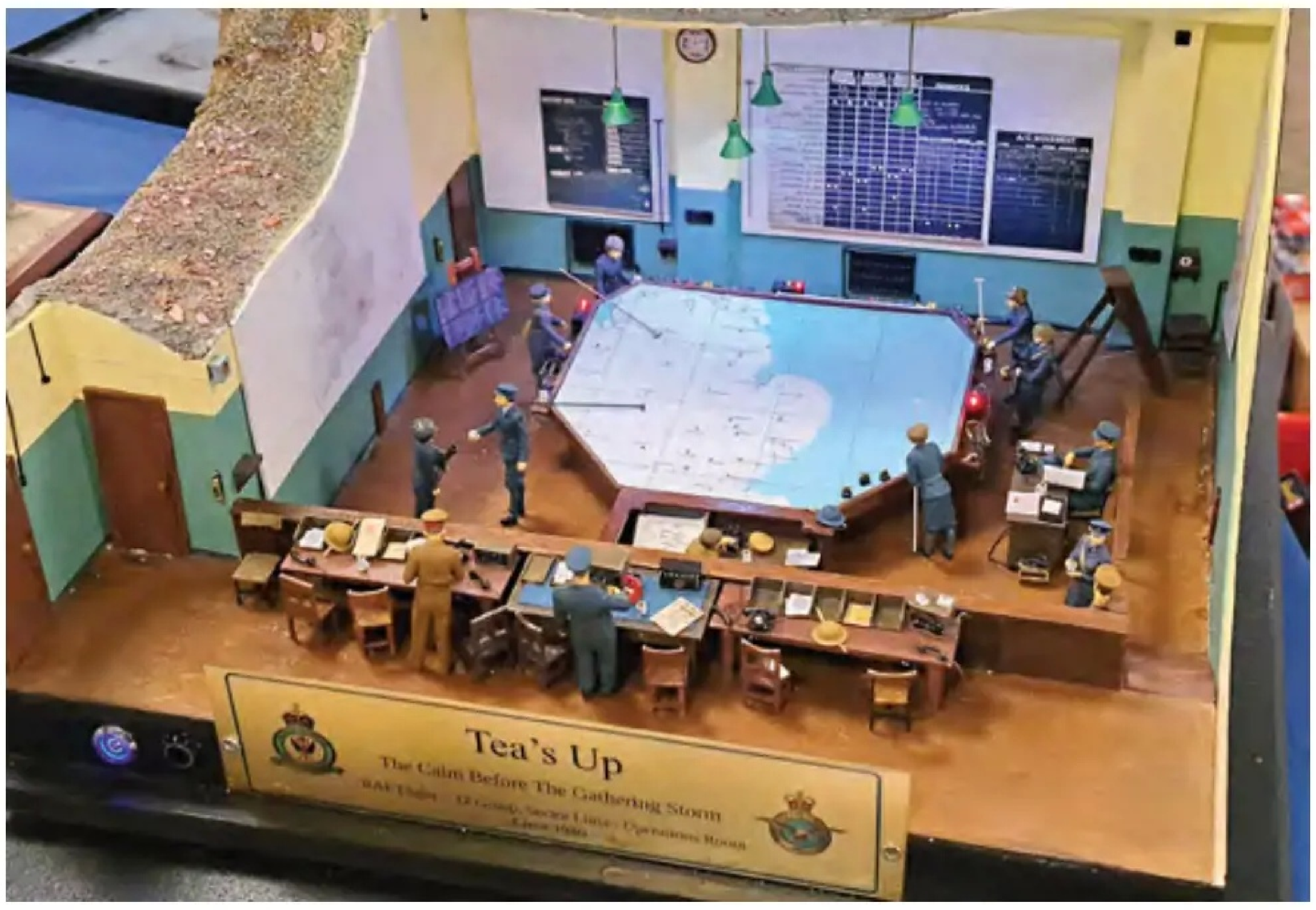
Stu Fone



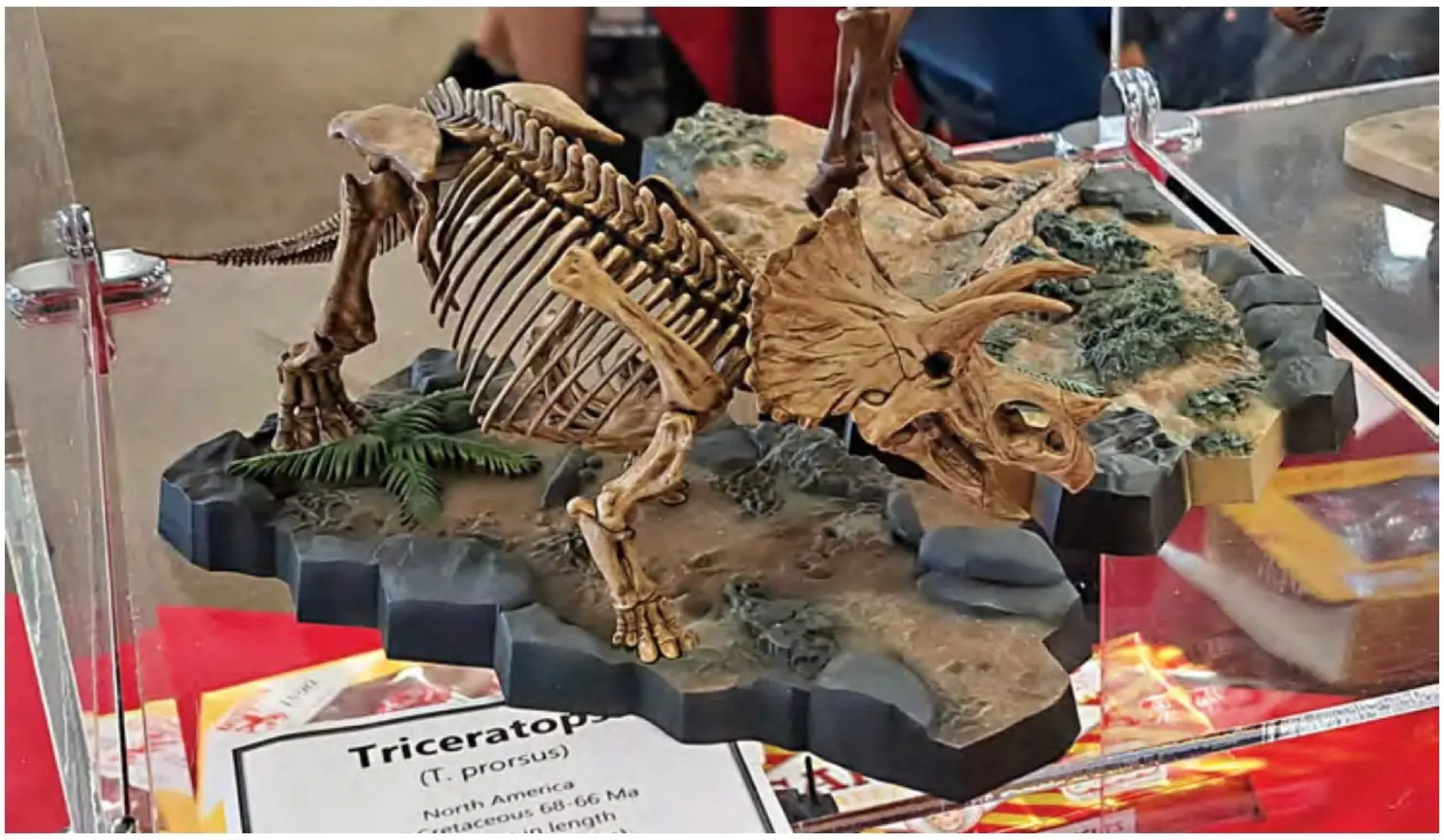
◀ Luke Carswell decided to set his Zoukei-Mura 1/35 Edelweiss Valkyria Chronicles Experimental Tank in what amounts to an 'earthbound' scene, with the futuristic vehicle parked outside a brick/wattle-and-daub building while the crew relaxed.



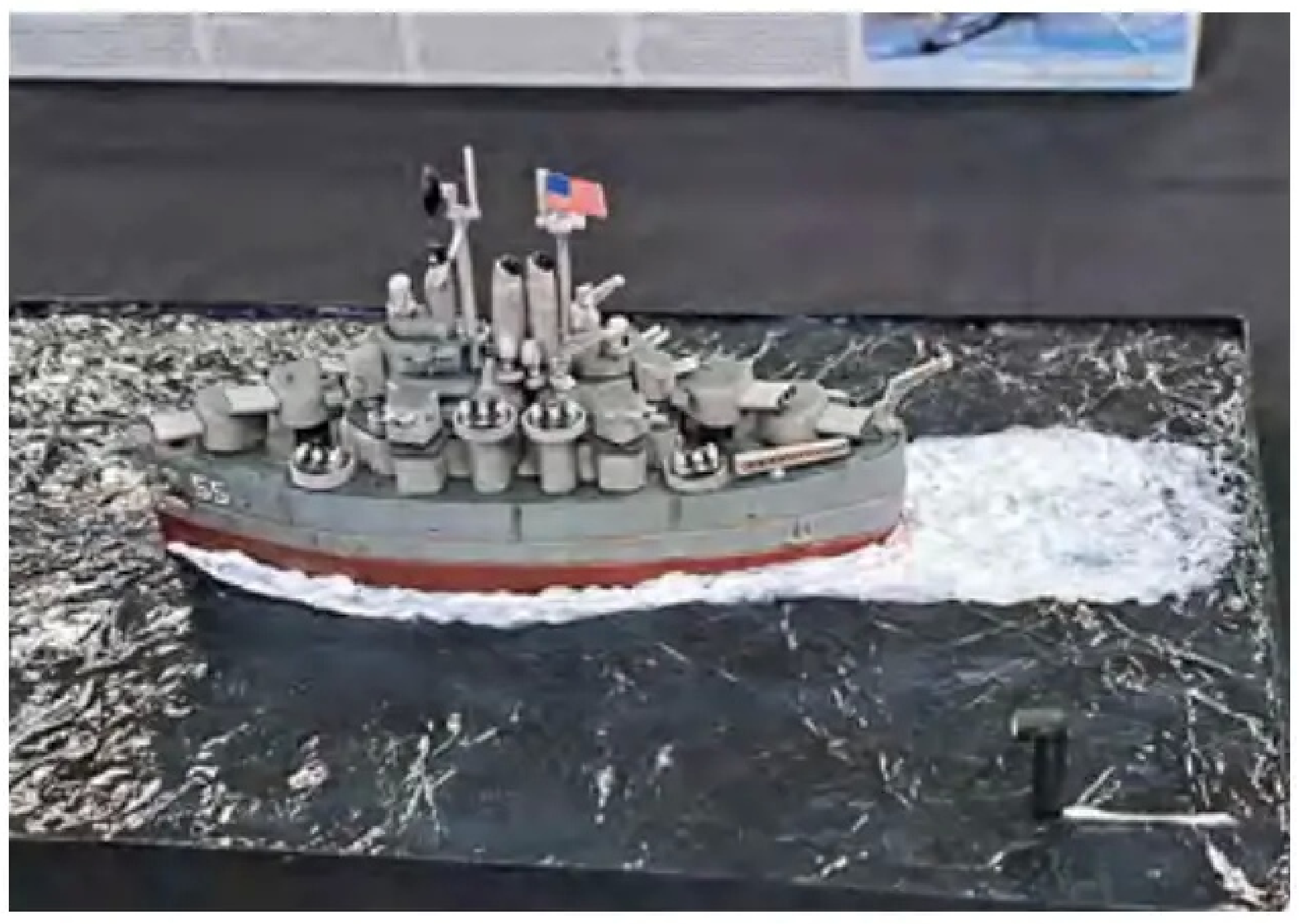
▲ Among the many excellent exhibits on the Dissimilar Air Combat Training SIG stand was a tribute to former SIG and 540 Modeller member Malcolm Hopper, who sadly passed away last October. His US Navy Fighter Weapons School (better known as 'Top Gun') Kitty Hawk 1/32 F-5E Tiger II drew much attention, and he complemented the kit with Furball decals plus superb airbrushed camouflage.



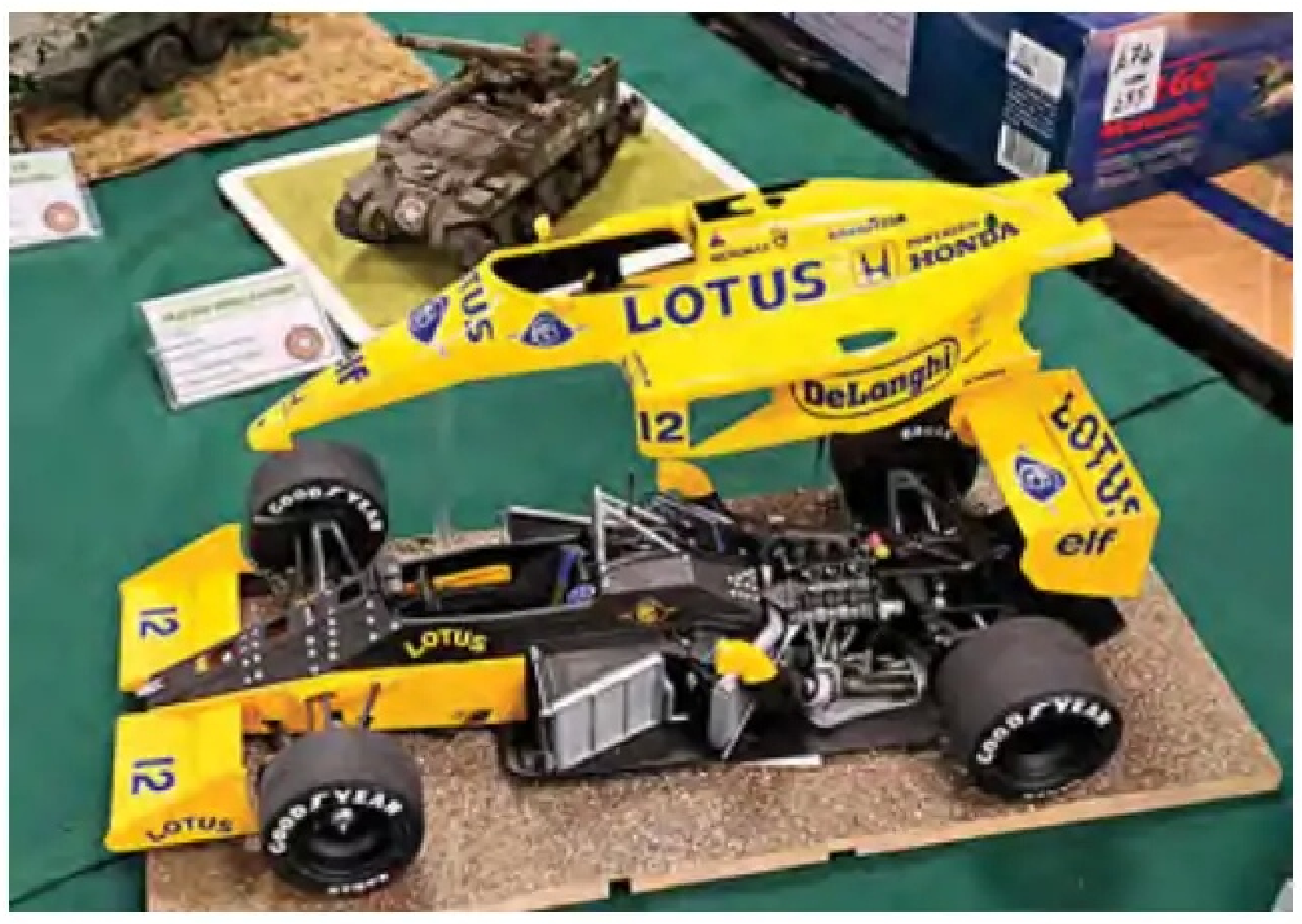
▲ IPMS Stafford's Karl Moxham scratch-built a 1/35 replica of the RAF Digby Sector Operations Room Museum as it would have been during the Battle of Britain, capturing how the plotters tracked the movement of British and German aircraft, with the Army and RAF officers readying to launch fighters to intercept.



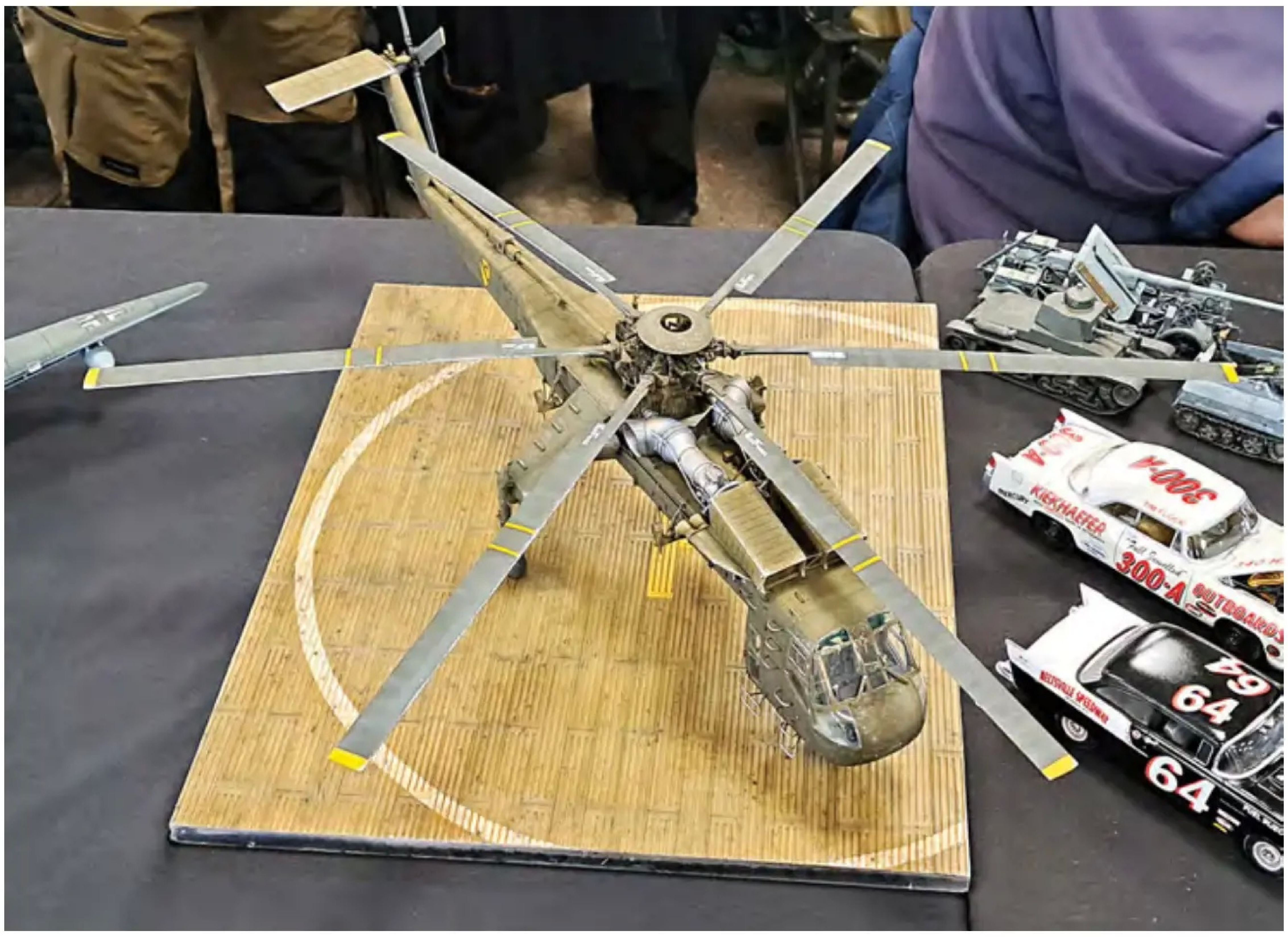
▲ Philip Lewis added a darker patina to the bones of his Bandai 1/32 Triceratops skeleton – to recreate the appearance of museum exhibits – using a series of washes and dry-brushing. This was one of several dinosaur exhibits on the Sutton Spartans stand.



▲ It's good to see modellers retain their quirky sense of humour, evinced by this Meng egg-scale USS *Cleveland*, which is being followed... . Fenland & Spalding's Andy Agar built this entertaining scene.



▲ Sutton Coldfield's Graham Wood found Beemax's 1/12 Lotus Type 99T a challenging, yet rewarding, build, displaying it with the main bodyshell raised to display the internal detail.



▲ ICM's 1/35 CH-54A Tarhe makes for an imposing build straight from the box, but Nottingham and District modeller Lee Sellars added Reskit's 3D-printed rotor hub and gearbox, along with the Screaming Toad Models cockpit upgrade.

Revell

LEVEL 5
NEW TOOL
03779 Gloster Meteor F.8/FR.9 "First Edition", 1:32
Includes; colour photoetch, canopy masks, book & poster

LEVEL 5
NEW PARTS
03767 Bristol Beaufighter Mk. VI, 1:48

LEVEL 4
03784 NH90 NFH "Navy", 1:72
Photo: ©Sascha Linkemeyer

LEVEL 4
NEW TOOL
03760 NASA Artemis Space Launch System (SLS), 1:144

LEVEL 3
NEW TOOL
07723 Lamborghini Revuelto, 1:24

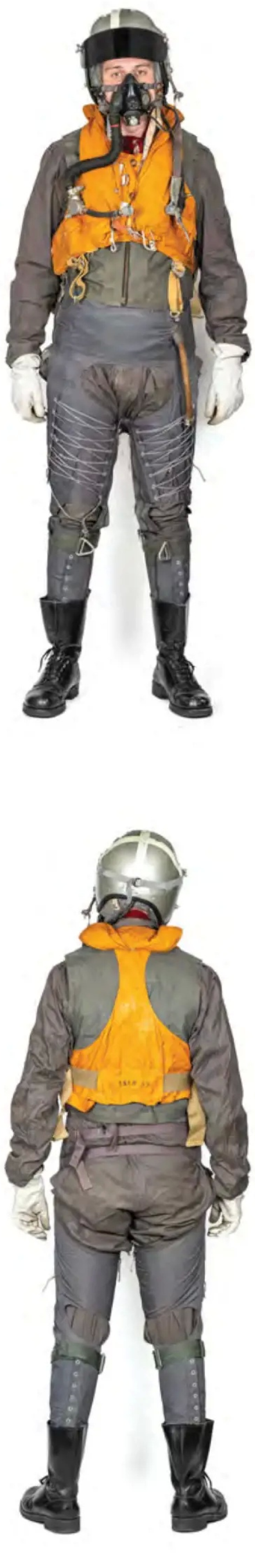
Available from all good model stockists and online from

hobbycraft

hobbycraft.co.uk

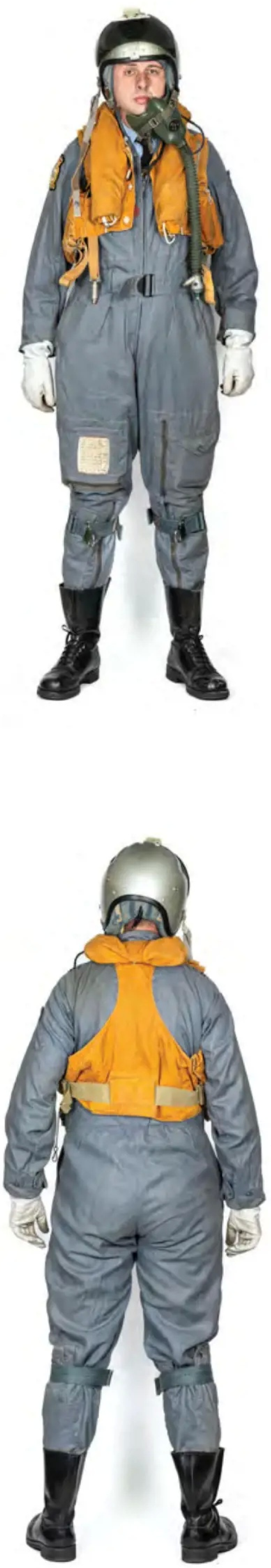
BRYLCREEM BOYS

We present the fourth and final instalment of our guide to RAF aircrew clothing and equipment, in conjunction with re-enactment specialist Up An' At 'Em History (www.upanatemhistory.co.uk). It's ideal for achieving accuracy on personnel posed with aircraft in dioramas and vignettes – and when converting figures or sculpting your own. This feature explores Cold War flying gear. *(All photos Matthew Roberts)*



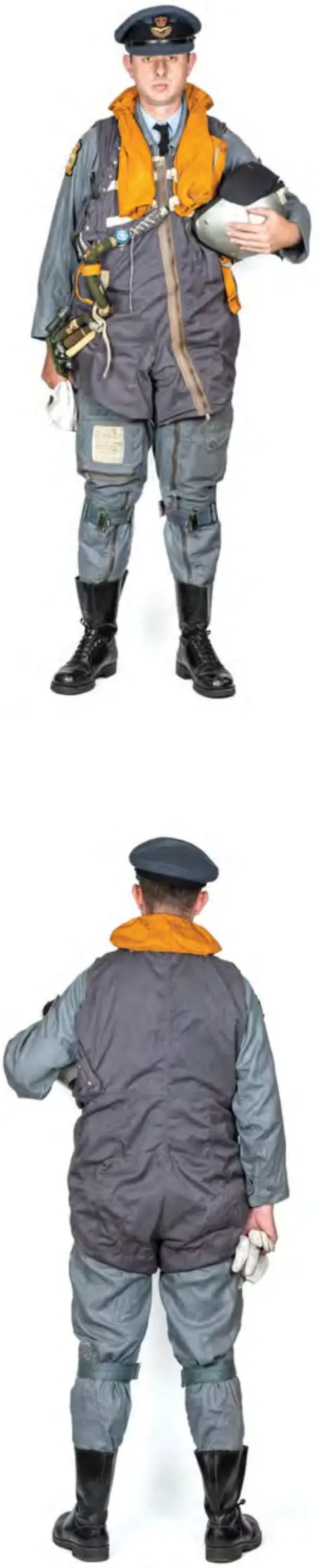
Swift pilot c1955

New innovations for the jet age. Mk.1 helmet with detachable visor. G-type inner helmet with second pattern M-type mask, and attachment to a pressure waistcoat with the new life preserver. This pilot wears a Mk.1 flying suit with 52-pattern boots, Mk.4 G-trousers and leg restraints, plus white kid-leather gloves.



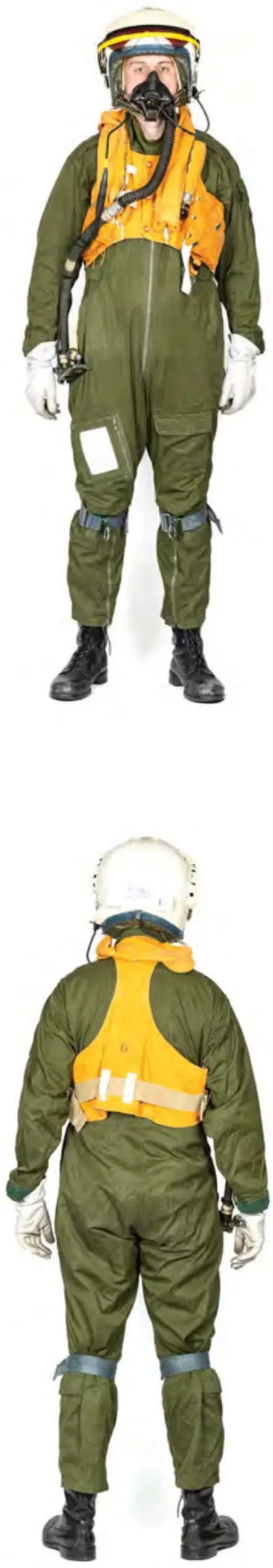
Hunter pilot c1956

A workhorse of the RAF second-generation jets, this Hunter pilot has a Mk.1A helmet with F-type inner helmet and A-13A1 mask. He wears inner G-trousers with a Mk.2 flying suit, 52-pattern boots and leg restraints. The life preserver is an early Mk.4. A shirt and tie complete the ensemble.



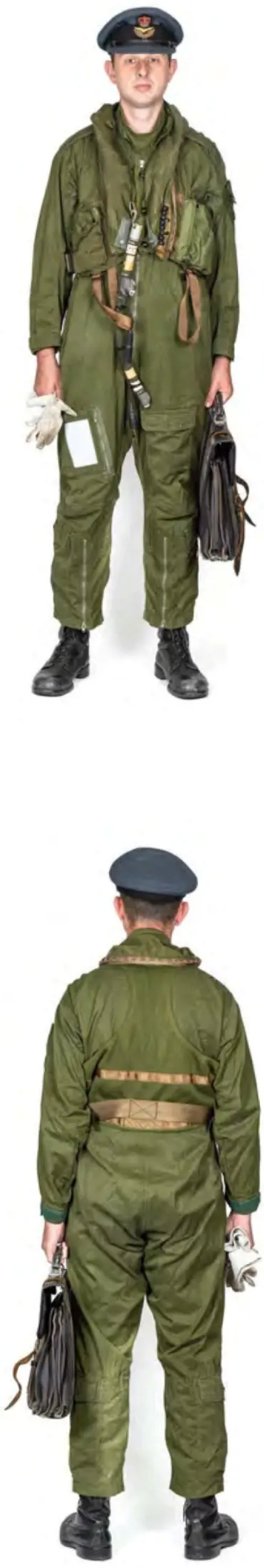
Victor pilot c1962

Ready to board the largest of the V-bombers, the Victor pilot wears a Mk.2 flying suit under a Mk.1 pressure jerkin for high-altitude flying, with a personal equipment connector (PEC) attached. He carries a Mk.1A helmet and leg restraints are worn.



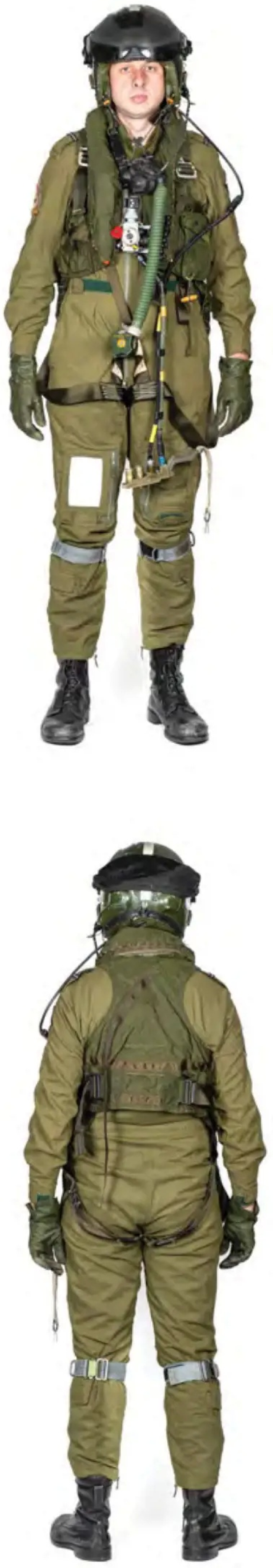
Lightning pilot c1968

In a transitional phase for equipment, this Lightning pilot wears a Mk.9 flying suit with internal G-trousers. He has 65-pattern flying boots with leg restraints. A PEC is worn with a P-type oxygen mask. The helmet is a Mk.2A that still retains a blast visor. A later Mk.4 life preserver is also worn.



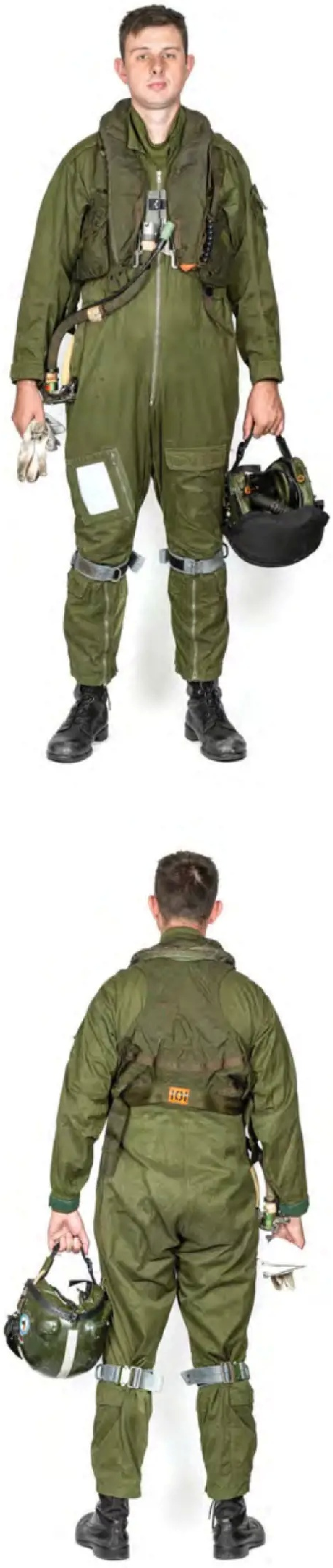
Vulcan rear-seater c1972

Our Vulcan crewman carries a flight bag and gloves. He wears a Mk.9 flying suit with a Mk.14 life preserver. He has 65-pattern boots and a green long-sleeved T-shirt. The multi-service connector for non-ejection seat rear crew is also present.



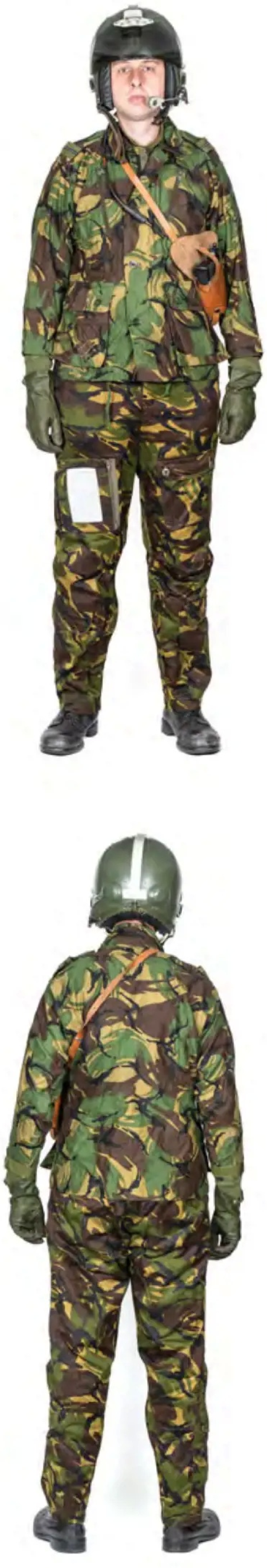
Phantom pilot c1973

Introduced in the late 1960s, the Phantom was one of the fastest RAF interceptors to date. Equipped for this, our pilot wears a Mk.11 flying suit with internal Mk.6 G-trousers, 65-pattern boots and leg restraints. He has a Mk.317 man mounted oxygen regulator on a Mk.11 life preserver with an integral harness. The Mk.3c flying helmet is worn.



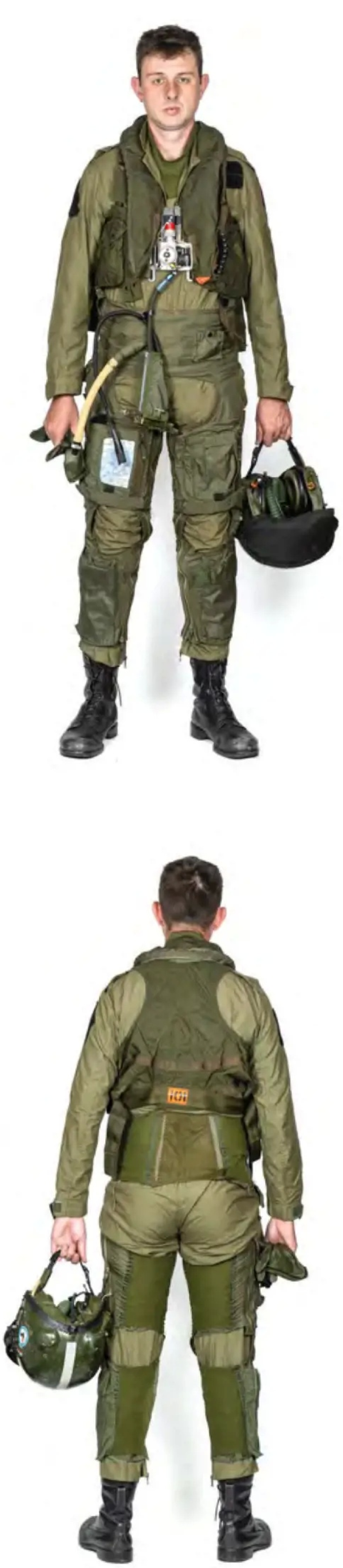
Buccaneer pilot c1978

The RAF started to fly the Buccaneer in the 1970s as they were gradually withdrawn from the Fleet Air Arm. A Mk.9 flying suit with a Mk.22 life preserver and leg restraints, with internal G-trousers and 65-pattern flying boots are worn. A PEC hangs to his right and a Mk.3C helmet is carried.



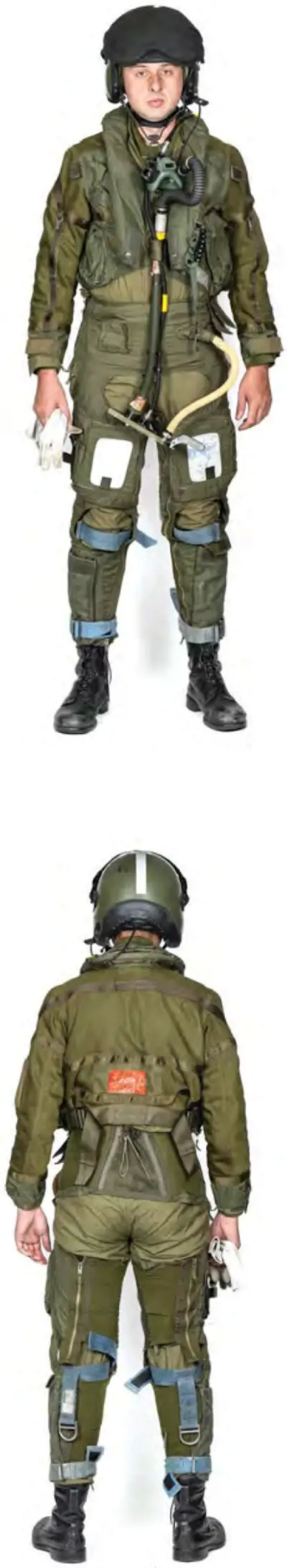
Helicopter pilot c1980

Rotary-wing assets provided close support for British ground forces since their first major deployment in the 1950s. Although not wearing a life preserver, the rest of the equipment is clearly visible: second pattern Mk.2 cold weather flying trousers and jacket in disruptive pattern material, Mk.3A helmet in green with boom mic, 65-pattern boots and green kid leather gloves, common for operations close to the front line. Browning automatic in holster.



Harrier pilot c1982

Ready for ground-attack duties from a base in West Germany, a GR.3 pilot wears a Mk.14 flying suit with external G-trousers, 65-pattern boots and leg restraints. A Mk.22 life preserver and 317A man mounted oxygen regulator clipped on with a PEC screwed into its base. Mk.3C helmet and green kid gloves.



Tornado c1989

Preparing to defend British airspace, the pilot wears a Mk.14B flying suit with external G-trousers. Two pairs of leg restraints are worn for this aircraft. The Mk.27S full-sleeved life preserver has a PEC attached to the front. A Mk.4 helmet with Q-type oxygen mask is worn.

Humbrol™

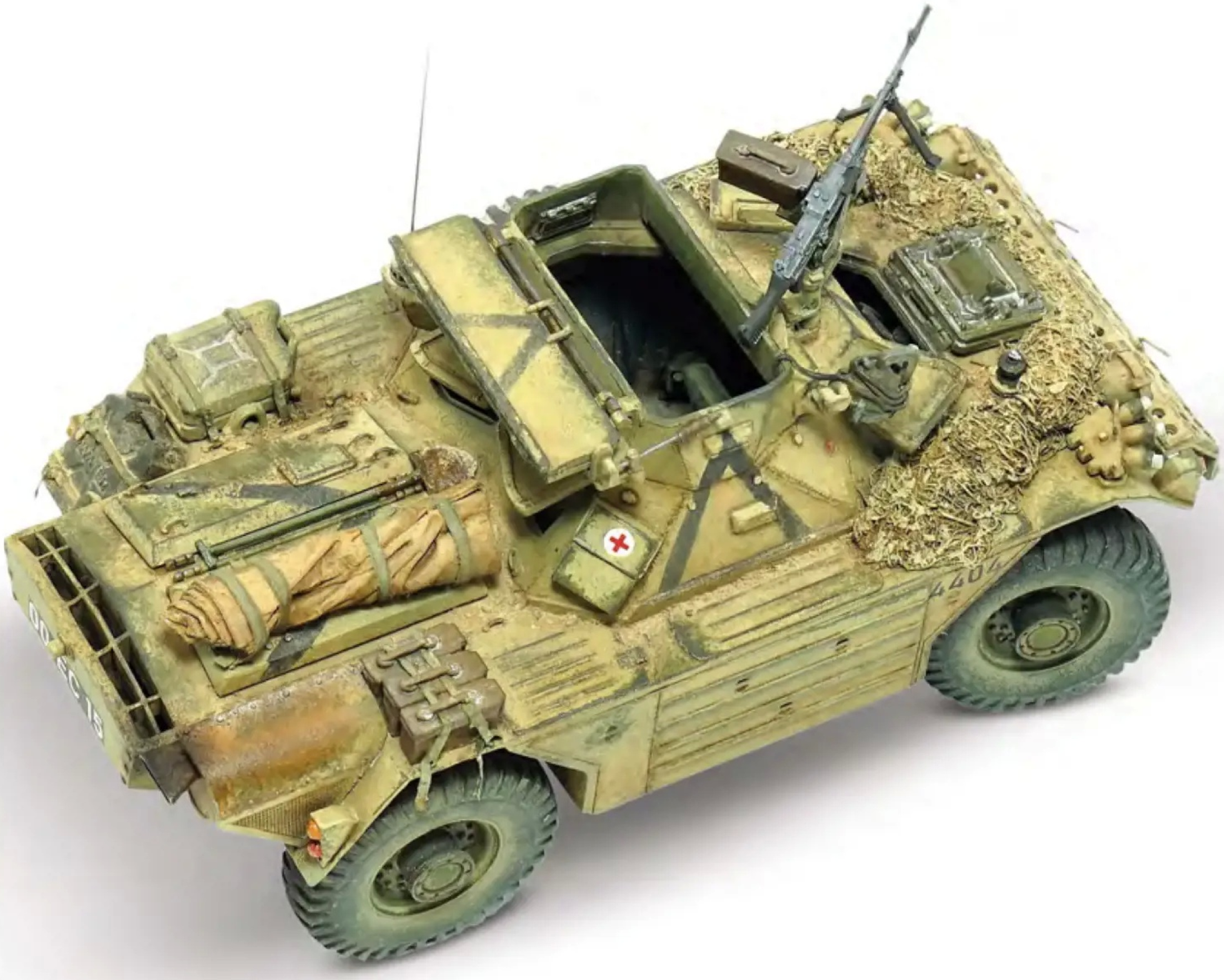
NEW Gen 3 Acrylic Model Colour

Our best ever formula

- A joy to use on resin, plastic wood, ceramic, metal & card
- Superior coverage & high pigmentation
- NEW fresh-lock lid - Keeps paint fresh + Identification slot
- NEW spill-free accurate nozzle - Superb dosage control
- NEW easy-squeeze bottle

NOW 17ml 3ml extra in each dropper

Humbrol.com
Made in the UK
NATURAL W
Humbrol Gen 3 Acrylic Matt Model Colour
No. 110 17ml



DESERT Ferret

Airfix's refreshed 1/35 Ferret Mk.1 scout car is taken for a spin in the sand, courtesy of Kev Smith

Daimler's Ferret Scout Car has a distinguished lineage, tracing its roots back to the World War Two Dingo. In the post-war era, the Ferret became a familiar sight in the ranks of the British Army and Commonwealth forces, serving as a light armoured reconnaissance and liaison vehicle. Designed for stealth and mobility rather than brute strength, its role was to scout enemy positions and relay information to other formations, rather than engage directly. With a welded hull, four-ton weight, and armour sufficient to resist just small arms fire, the Ferret relied on its agility and a dependable 6-cylinder Rolls-Royce engine to keep its crew safe. Operational from the 1950s through to the early 1990s, including during the 1990-91 Gulf War, it's regarded as a classic Cold War armoured reconnaissance vehicle.

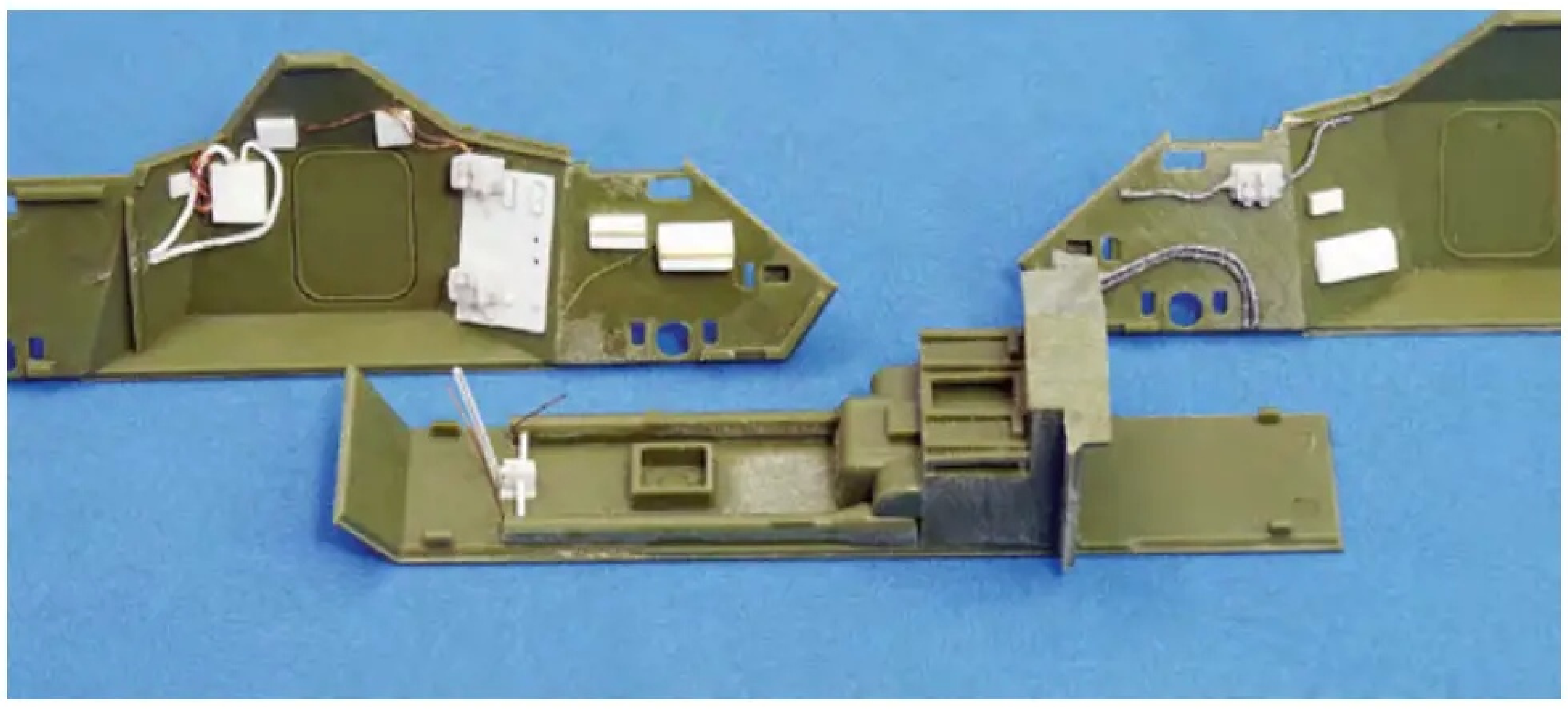
MODEL SPEC

Ferret Scout Car Mk.1
By: Airfix
Stock Code: A1386
Scale: 1/35
Price: £24.99
Available From: https://uk.airfix.com

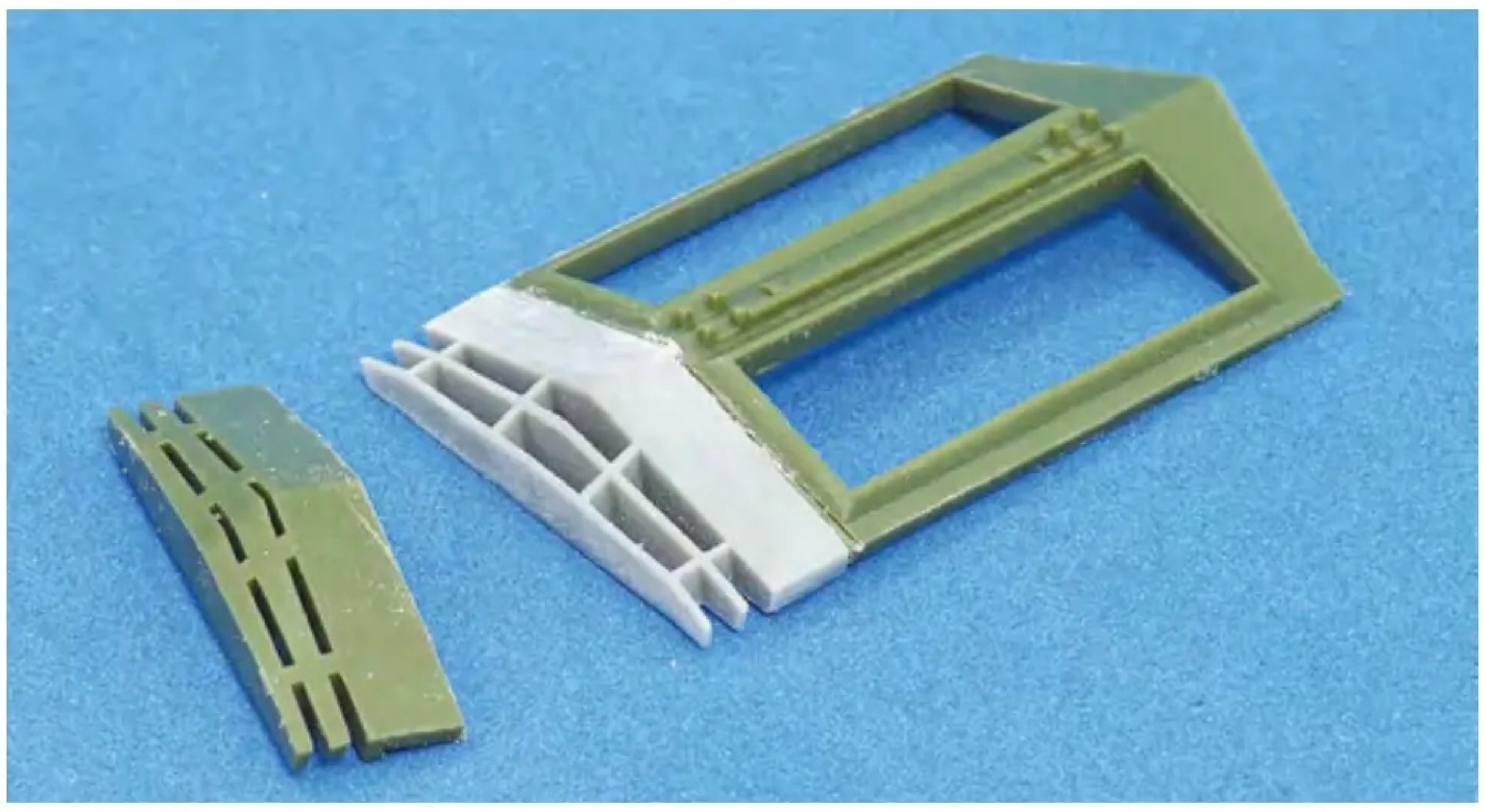
AIRFIX
1:35 FERRET SCOUT CAR Mk.1

Scratch that itch

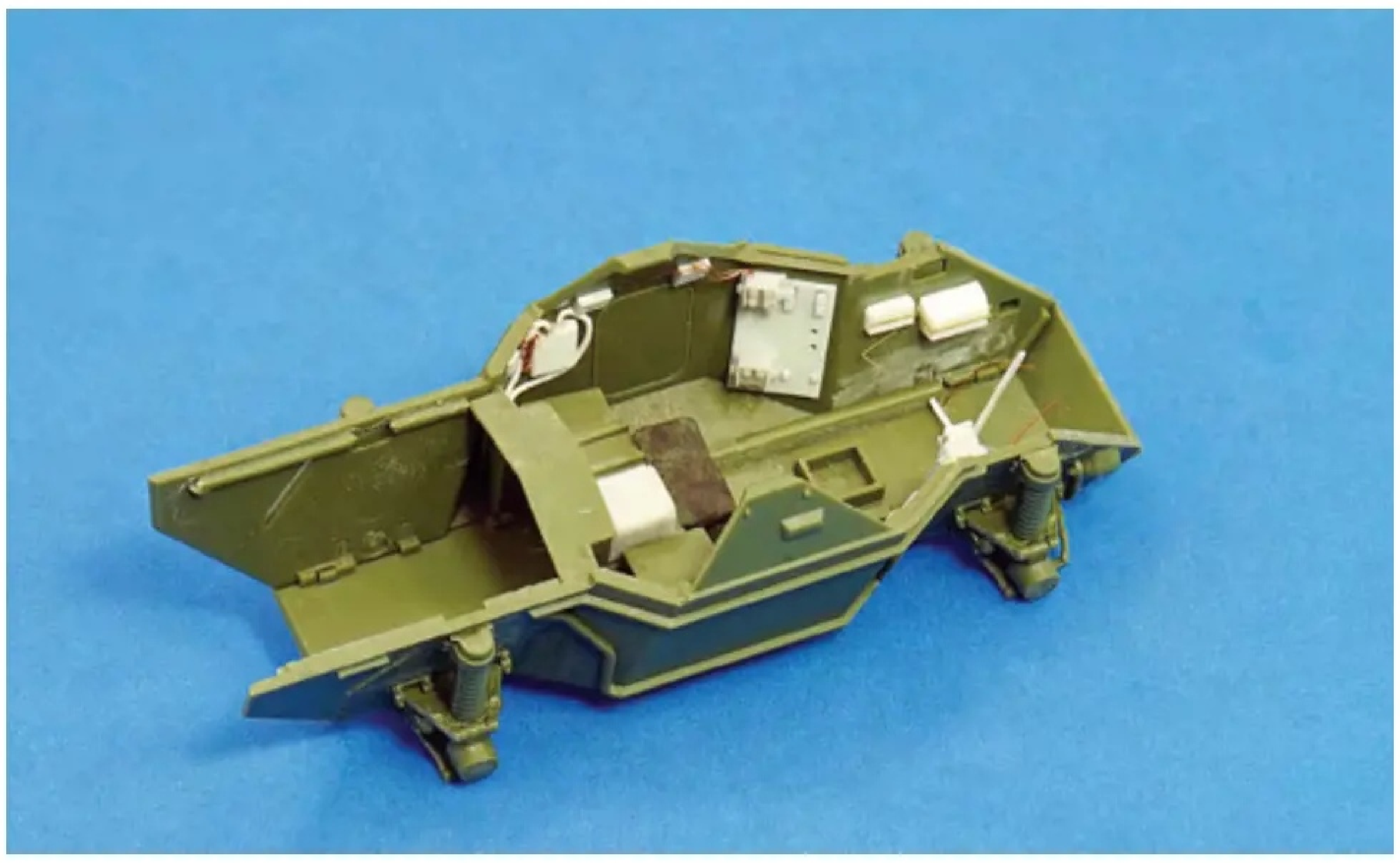
Until recently, the Ferret was underserved by kit manufacturers, with just a 1/35 resin offering from Accurate Armour during the 1990s. Airfix addressed this gap with the release of the Mk.2, and this second offering follows suit, providing a fully injection-moulded kit distributed across five green styrene runners and one clear frame, with the addition of several new parts. The moulding quality is commendable, free from flash, warping, or shrinkage, plus ejector-pin marks are mostly confined to concealed areas. Overall, the engineering is solid, though certain components, particularly the pioneer tools, could benefit from further refinement. The shovel, for instance, features an awkwardly angled blade, which may require reshaping for accuracy. Additionally, items such as the exhaust cowling and wheel arches are slightly thick and would benefit from thinning to achieve a more accurate scale



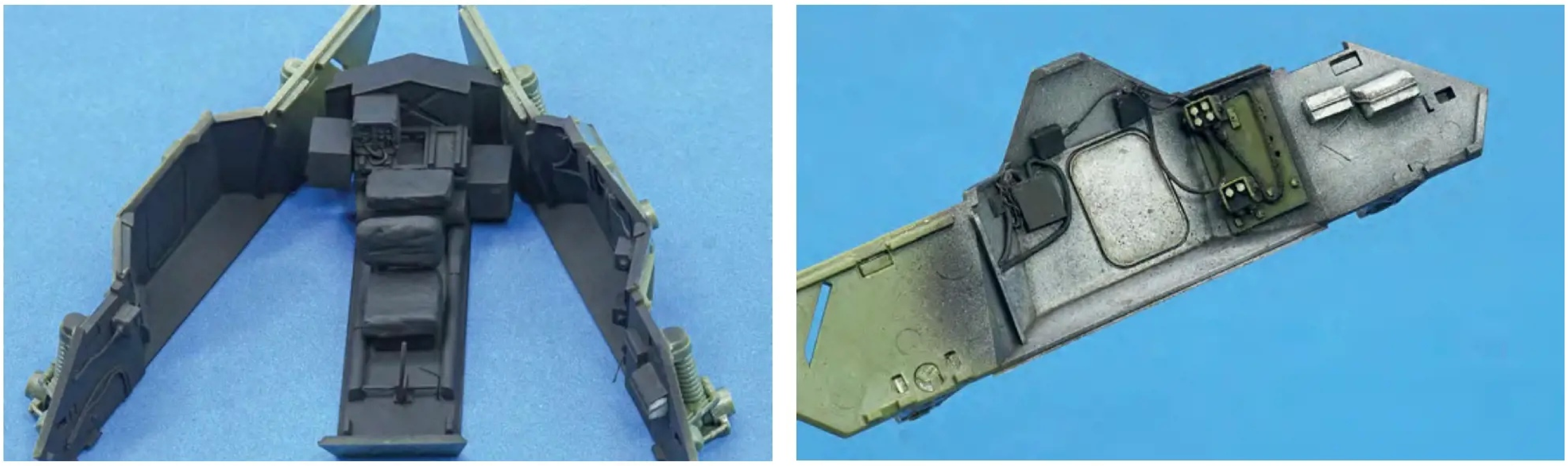
▲ With the larger cupola option, more of the interior is visible, meaning a scratch-built basic interior is almost essential. This was replicated using plastic card and thin wire, plus 3D-printed Clansman radio boxes from ITA, creating a convincingly busy appearance.



▲ One of the most noticeable shortcomings is the kit's air intake, which is overly thick. For those preferring greater accuracy, ITA provides a 3D-printed replacement in its Ferret update set. The kit part was removed carefully with a hobby saw, and the new intake fitted seamlessly to the rear hull.



▲ Once the interior was completed, a dry test of the floor and hull sides confirmed there were no alignment or fit issues.

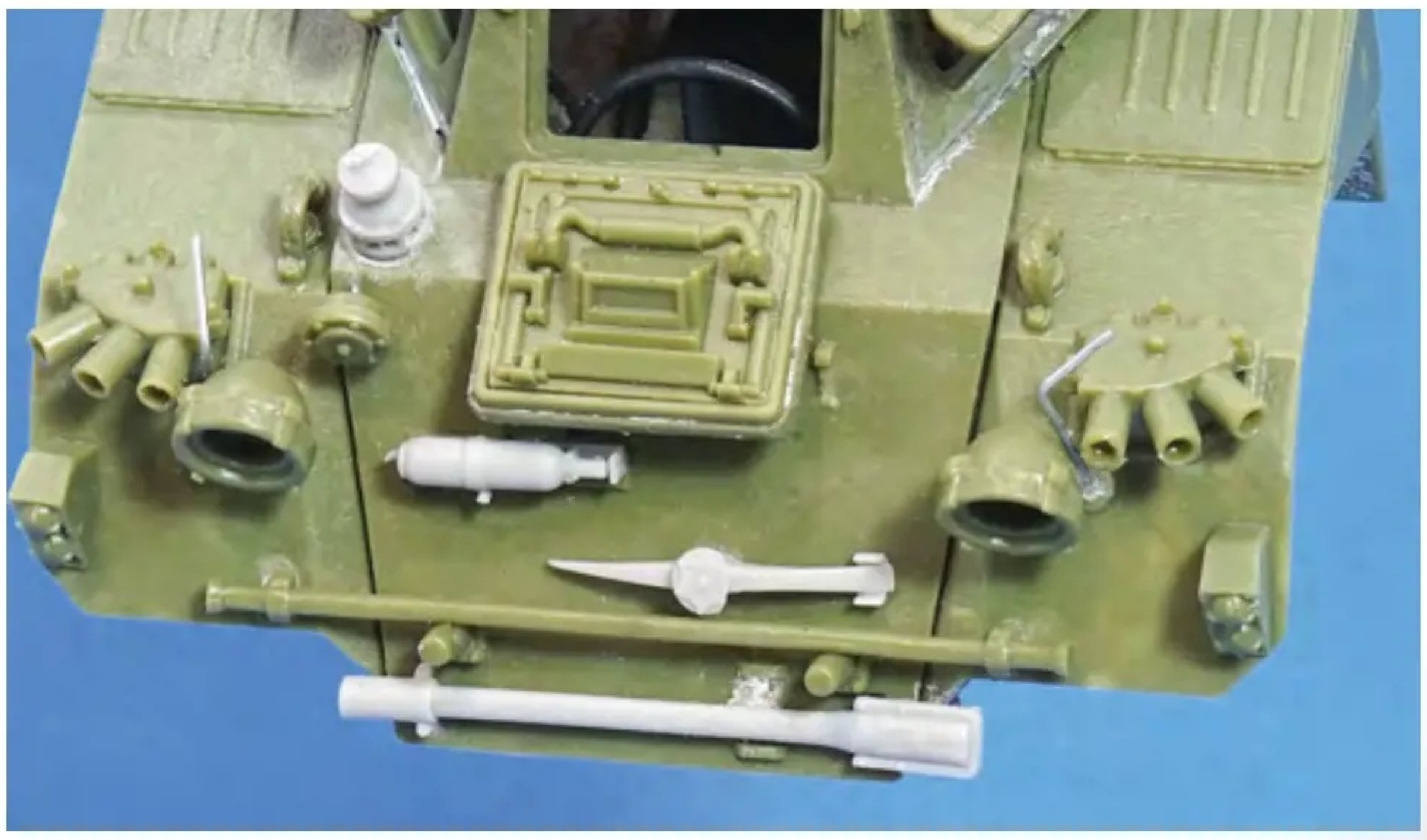


▲ Next, the interior received an undercoat of AK11027 Rubber Black. This not only provided natural shadowing within the compartment, but served as an excellent base for subsequent metallic tones.

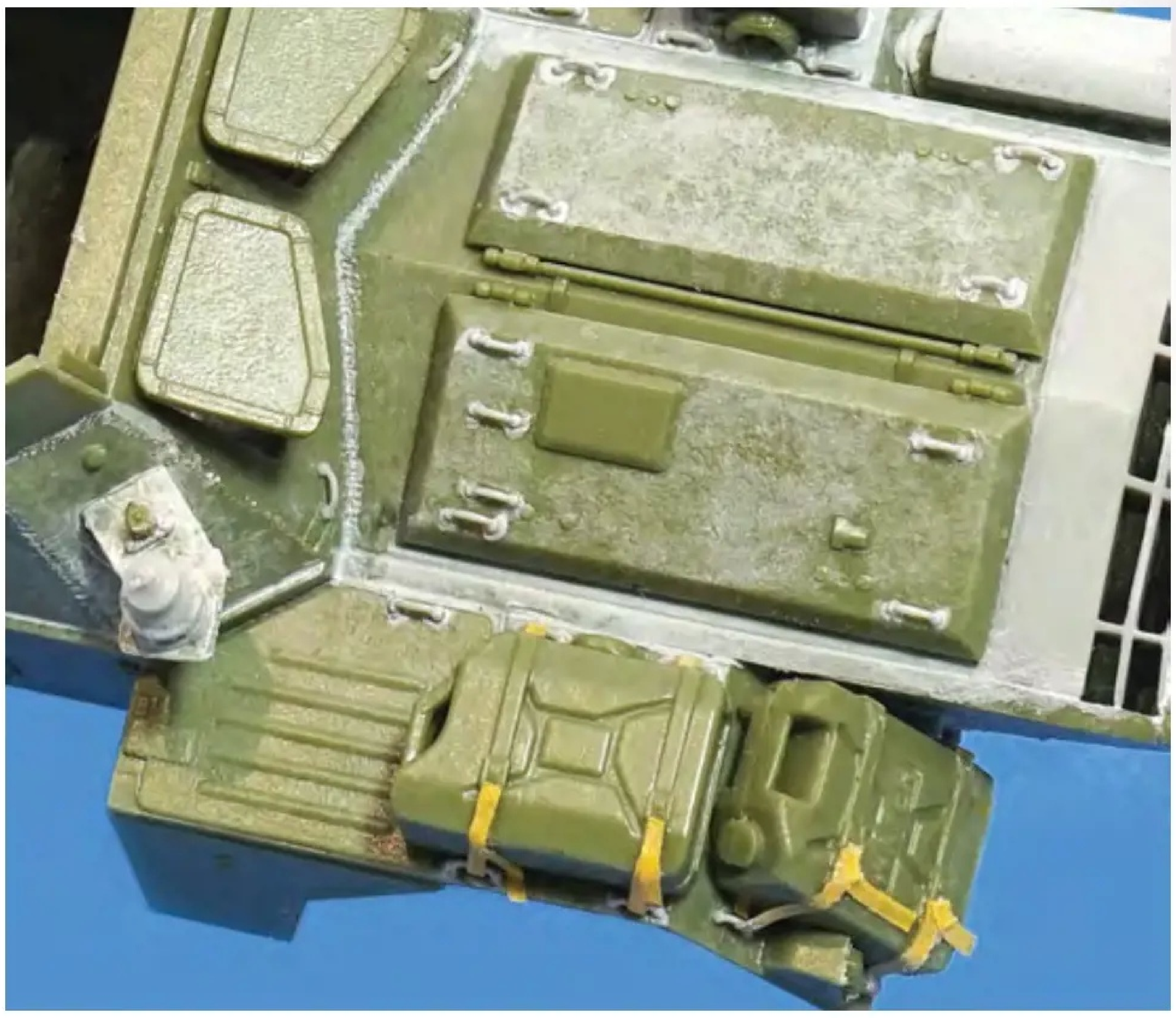
appearance. Having assembled the earlier release for this magazine, this modeller opted for a different approach for this project. Aftermarket sets from Inside the Armour (ITA) were used, enhancing the kit with a range of 3D-printed replacement parts, including a more accurate shovel, weapons, communication equipment and tie-down loops.

Construction begins with the interior, which Airfix has sensibly divided into nine distinct stages. The modeller is offered a choice between two radio sets: the earlier Larkspur and the later Clansman system, the latter having entered service in the early 1980s. As the Ferret remained in use into the 1990s, this flexibility allows for several historically accurate configurations. Airfix further assists with lettered steps (A, B, or C) to guide the modeller in matching interior components with corresponding antenna mounts and external fittings.

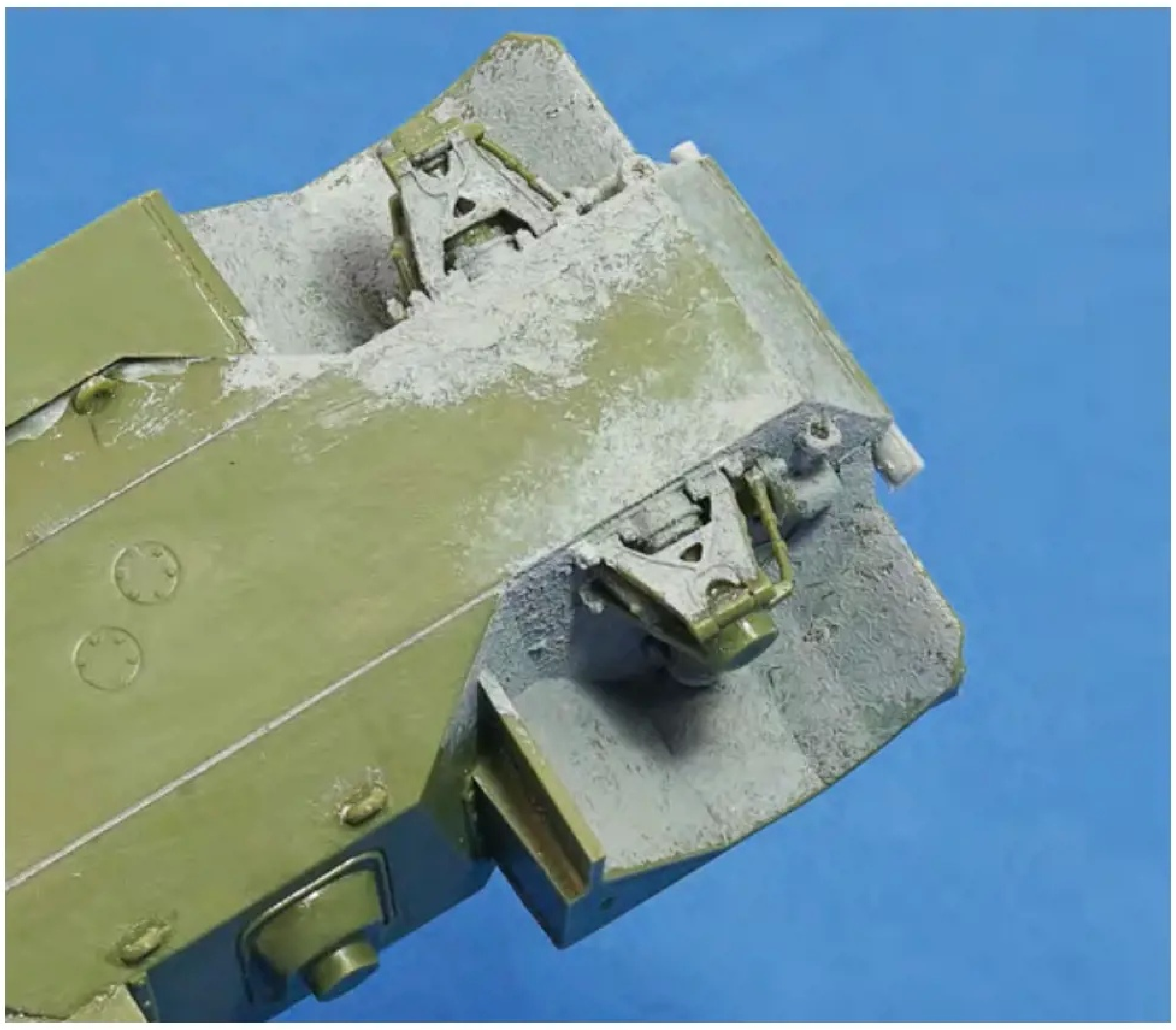
Although most ejector-pin marks on the floor plate are obscured in the final assembly, they were filled using VMS CA glue and sanded for a cleaner finish. The large, open superstructure allows a partial view of the interior, ▶

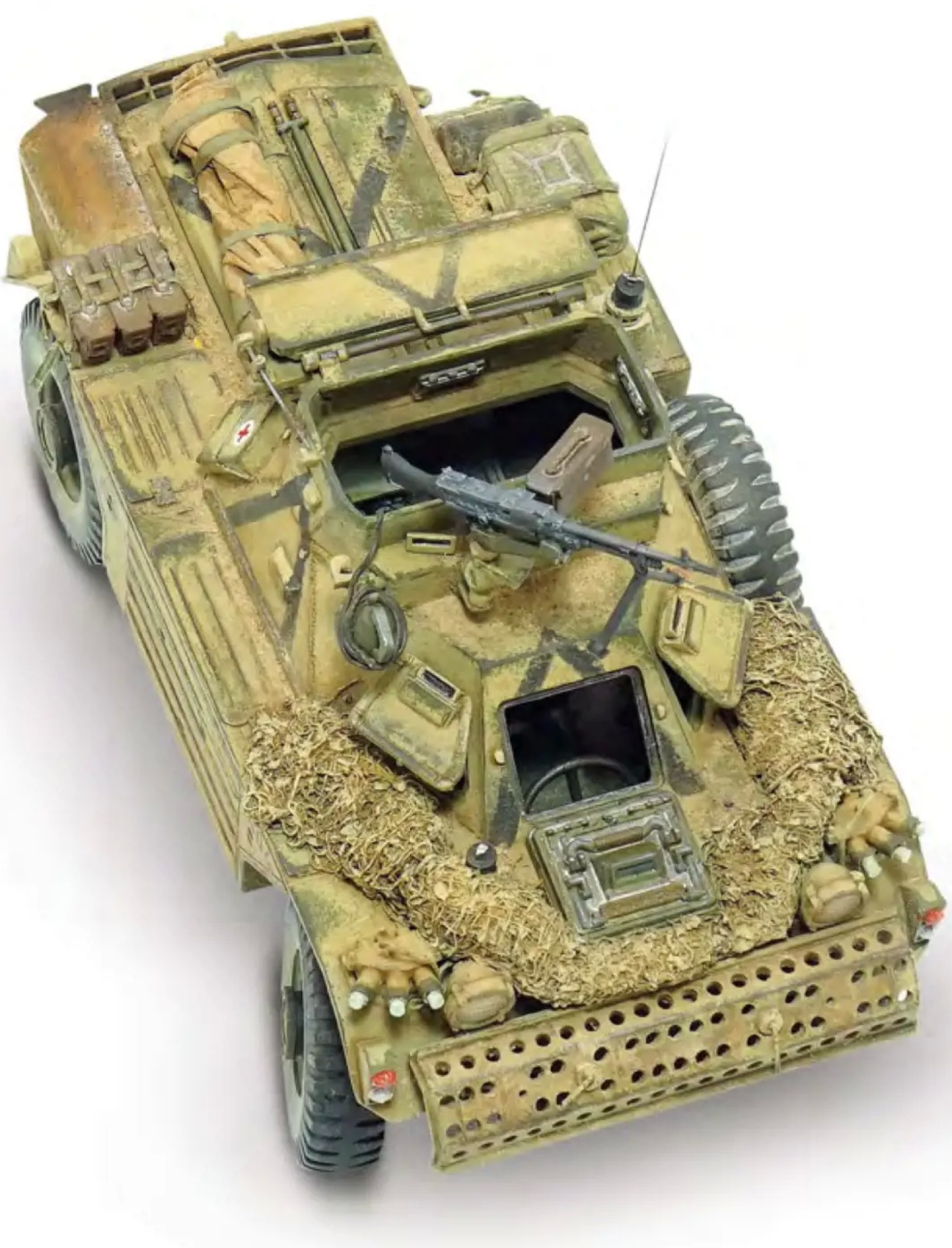


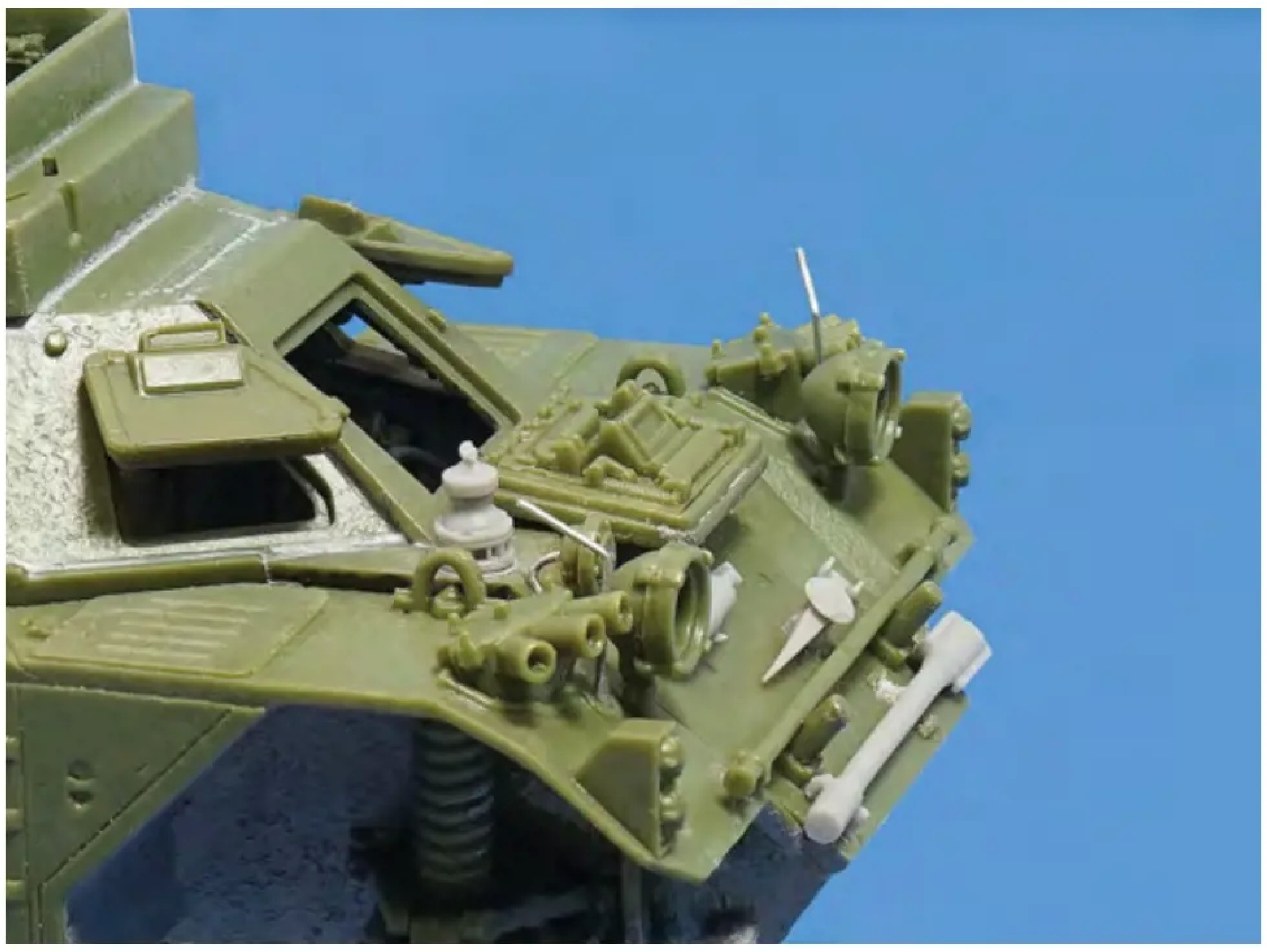
▲ Inside The Armour's upgrade set supplies more accurate pioneer tools and fire extinguishers, along with an improved exhaust guard and hollow exhaust pipe, although some would be hidden under other fittings.



▲ The rear deck was improved significantly by removing the poorly moulded tie downs and replacing them with ITA's 3D-printed versions. Moulded jerrycan straps were removed, before being replaced with Tamiya tape items, which were threaded carefully through the loops for a more realistic appearance.







▲ Airfix provides two types of smoke grenade launchers; these have caps on/off. For the latter option, the tubes were widened and smoke grenades, cut from plastic rod, inserted to add visual interest. The kit-supplied mirrors were omitted in favour of scratch-built wire arms, producing a more realistic appearance.

◀ AK Interactive's Acrylic Putty was stippled around the wheel arches and selected areas of the underside. This technique provides a clean and controlled approach to weathering. Once painted, the putty can be accentuated with washes or serve as a base for further weathering.

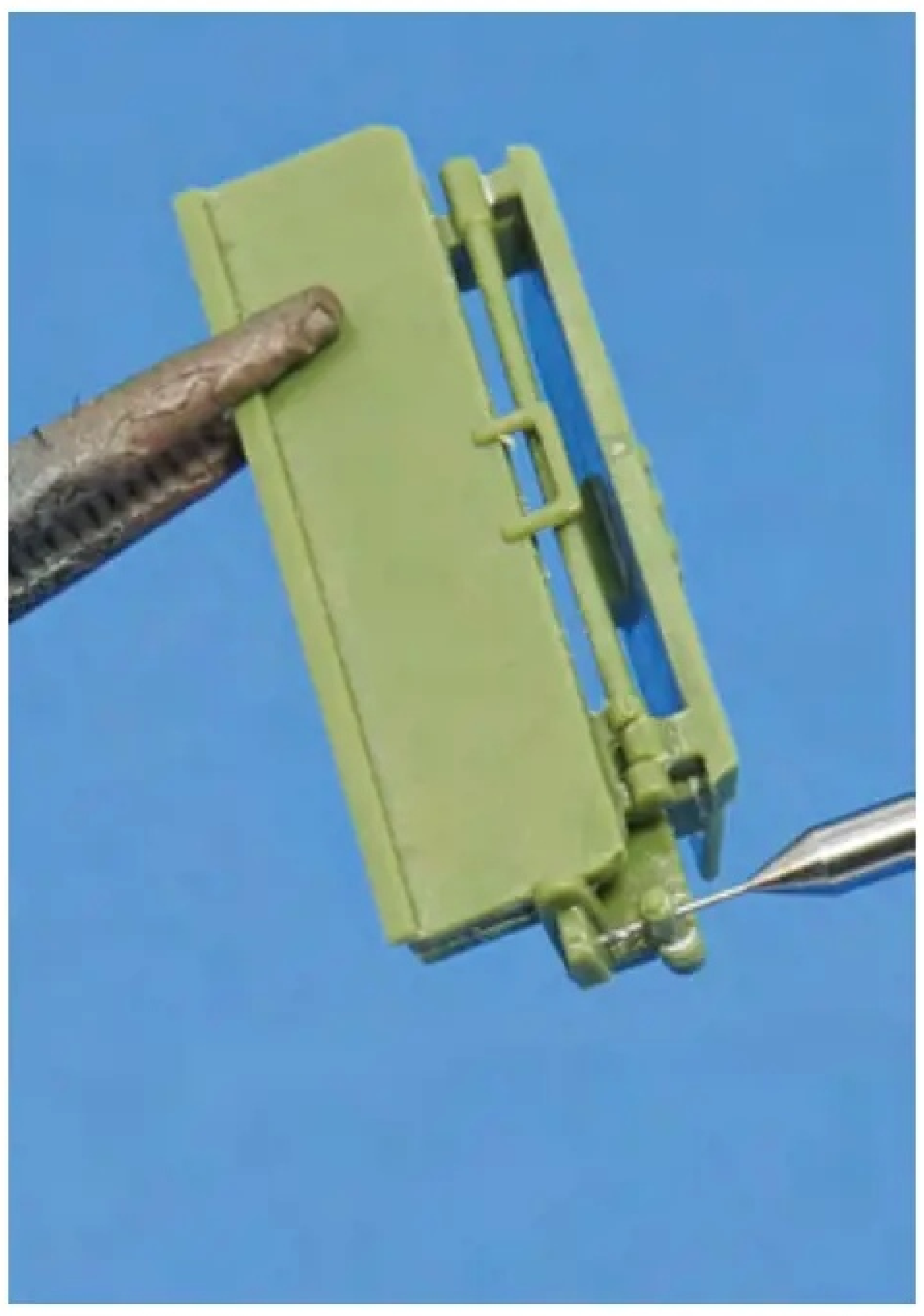
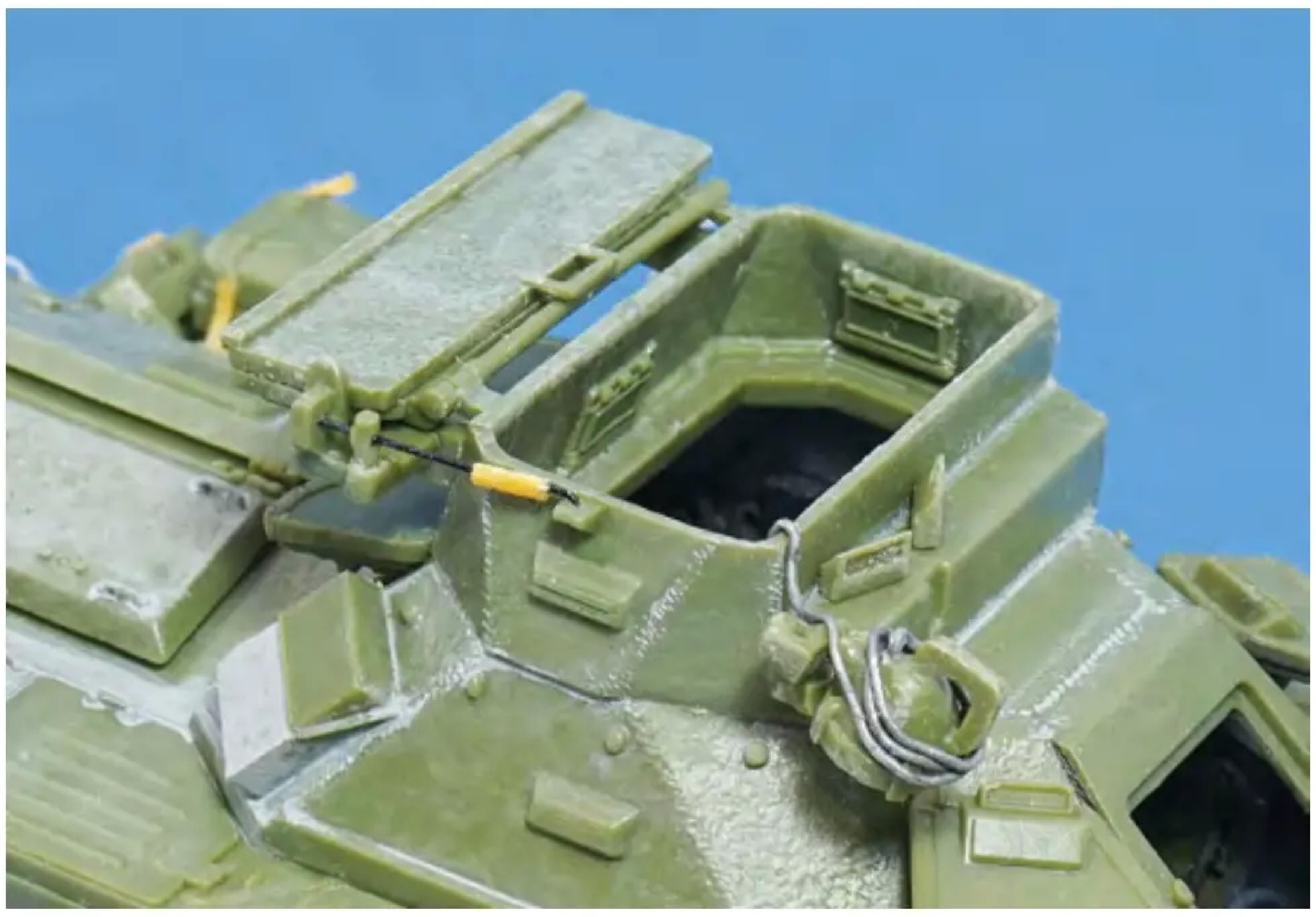
prompting me to add additional detail. Using online references, a basic scratch-built interior was created, using a mix of 3D-printed radio communication boxes, plastic card, and thin wire to replicate electrical cabling. Rather than attempting a full reproduction, a conscious decision was made to include just enough detail to give the appearance of a busy interior when viewed from above.

Painting began with a base coat of AK Interactive's AK11027 Rubber Black, followed by a thin airbrushed layer of Vallejo 77.717. Dull Aluminium. Raised details were enlivened via the application of an Abteilung502 ABT090 Industrial Earth pin wash. The final step for the interior involves fitting the driver's and commander's seats, both of which were improved via Green Stuff two-part putty. It's true to say that several sub-assemblies could have benefited from simplified mouldings, despite the current multi-part approach yielding high detail. This was particularly evident on the observation hatches, which are impressively rendered in two pieces to capture the intricate interior features.

Exterior workings

With the interior complete and painted, the hull sides were attached to the floor plate. Fit was excellent, requiring no filler. Attention then shifted to the exterior, starting with the engine deck, which can be posed open. Though no engine is included, this opens the door for aftermarket manufacturers to release a suitable Rolls-Royce powerpack in future. The kit air intake, which is slightly on the thick side, was removed with a hobby saw and replaced with a more in-scale ITA 3D-printed replacement, as was the exhaust cover. A minimal amount of filler was needed when fitting the engine deck, primarily due to tight tolerances, which necessitated paint removal from the contact surfaces.

The suspension, built over 12 steps, features keyed parts for easy alignment and while minor neatening of seam lines on the springs is required, it's not problematic. Installation of the wheel arches and large stowage bin comes next and, once the chassis and body are complete, the remaining ancillaries can be attached. These include alternate tail lights and antenna mounts – all dependent on the earlier choice of radio system. While the steering is designed to be fixed in a straight-ahead position, enough tolerance exists to allow for a slight offset, adding a touch of realism and motion to the finished model.

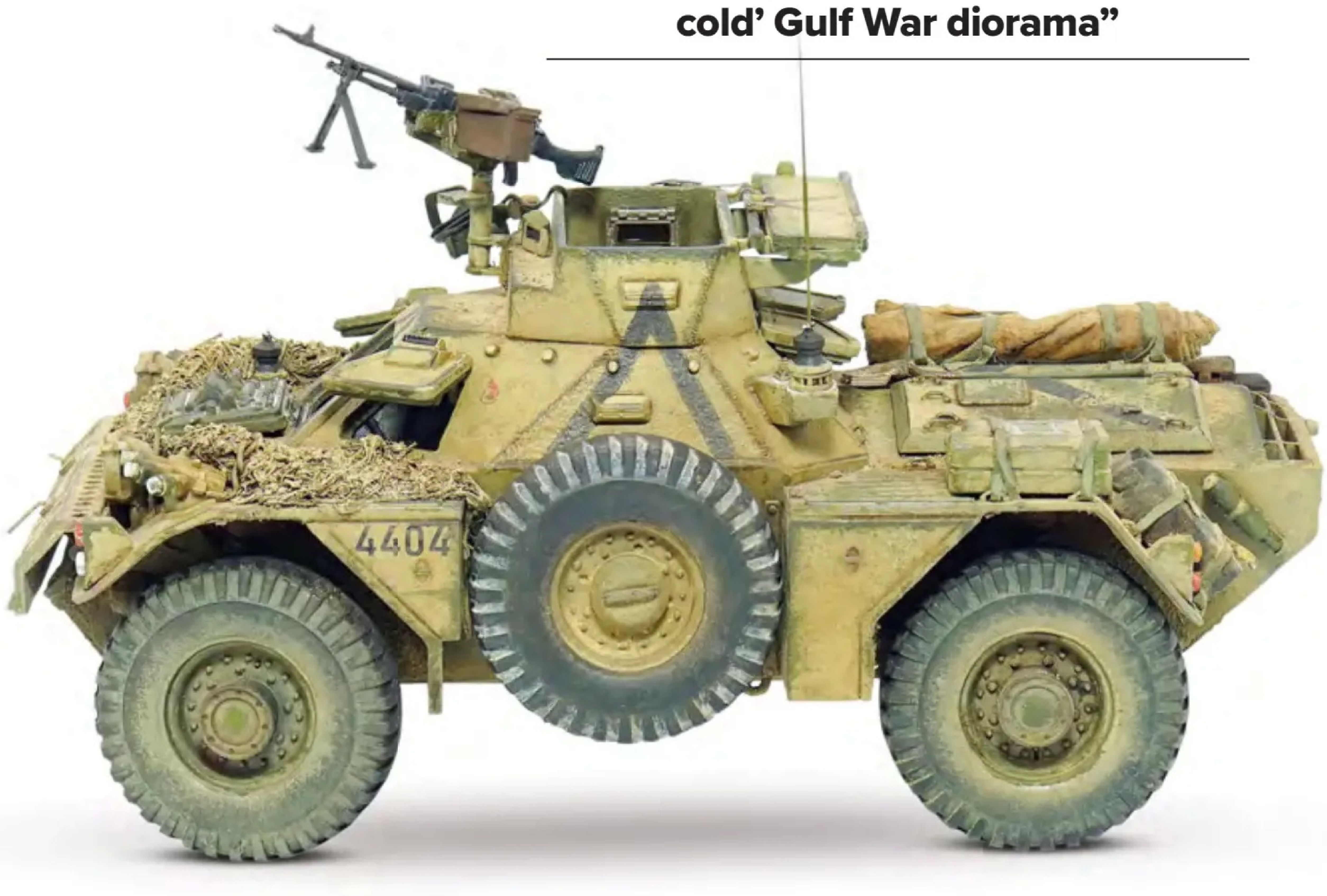


▲ The supplied hatch mechanism was oversized. The part was attached, then the rod removed carefully with a sharp knife, after which the corresponding hole was drilled for a more in-scale replacement. A rudimentary handle, fashioned from Tamiya tape was then added, while the spotlight angle was altered to match reference photos, with the missing electrical cable also scratch-built.

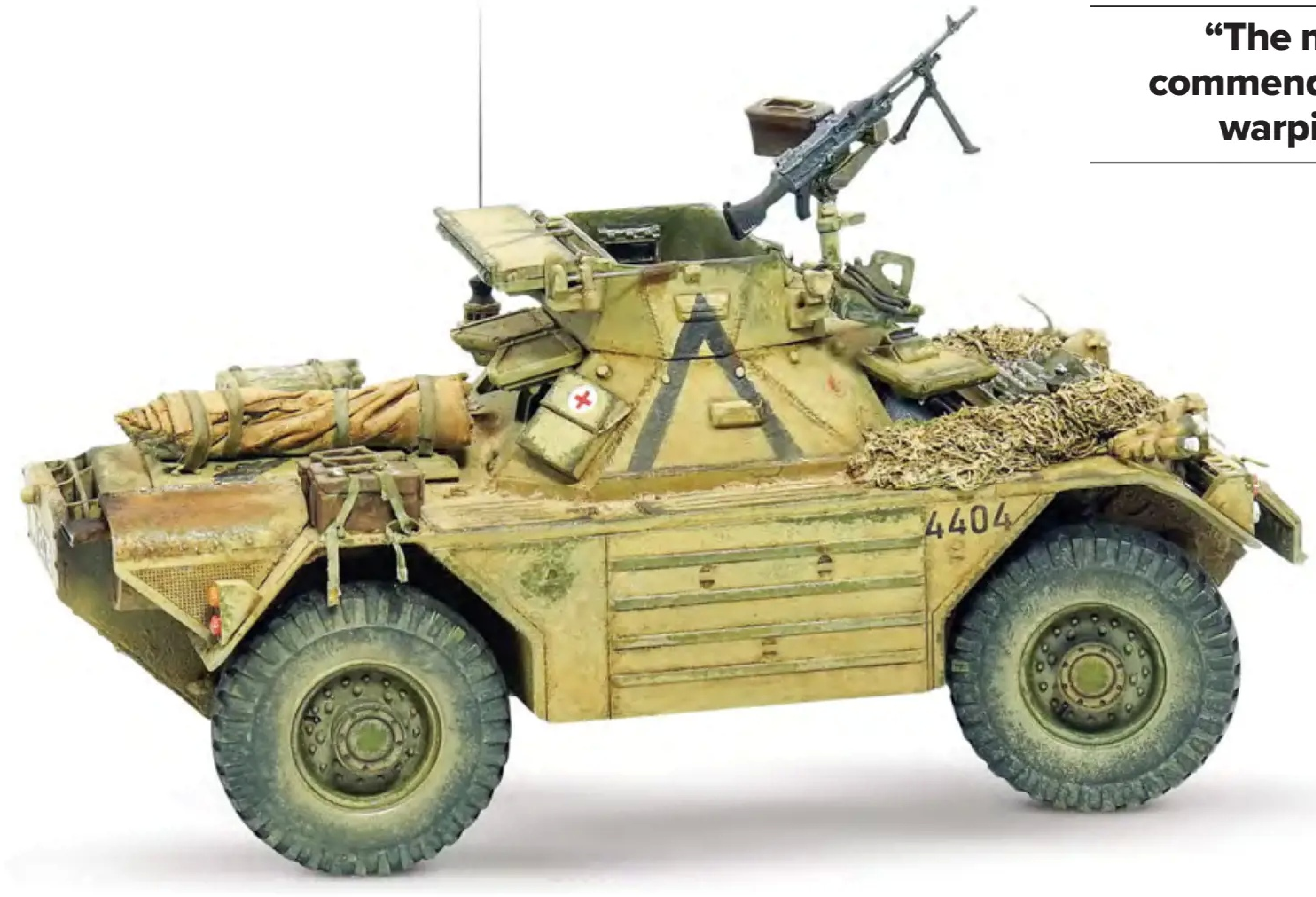
In the desert

Before painting, texture was applied to all external surfaces to enhance visual interest. This effect can be achieved in various ways; here, liquid cement was stippled onto the surfaces using a cut-down brush to create subtle, irregular patterns. Additional detailing involved replacing the jerrycans' integrally moulded straps with fresh versions fabricated from Tamiya tape, which was cut to size and then attached. Next, the hatch locking lever, which was noticeably overscale, was replaced. A new lever was scratch built from thin wire, reusing the kit's moulded mounting post after it was opened using a micro drill. Finally, a camouflage net was added to the front of the AFV to complete the enhancements.

One of the key techniques used on this build was 'hairspray' ▶

"The Ferret Mk.I quickly earns its place in any Cold War-era or 'not-so-cold' Gulf War diorama"



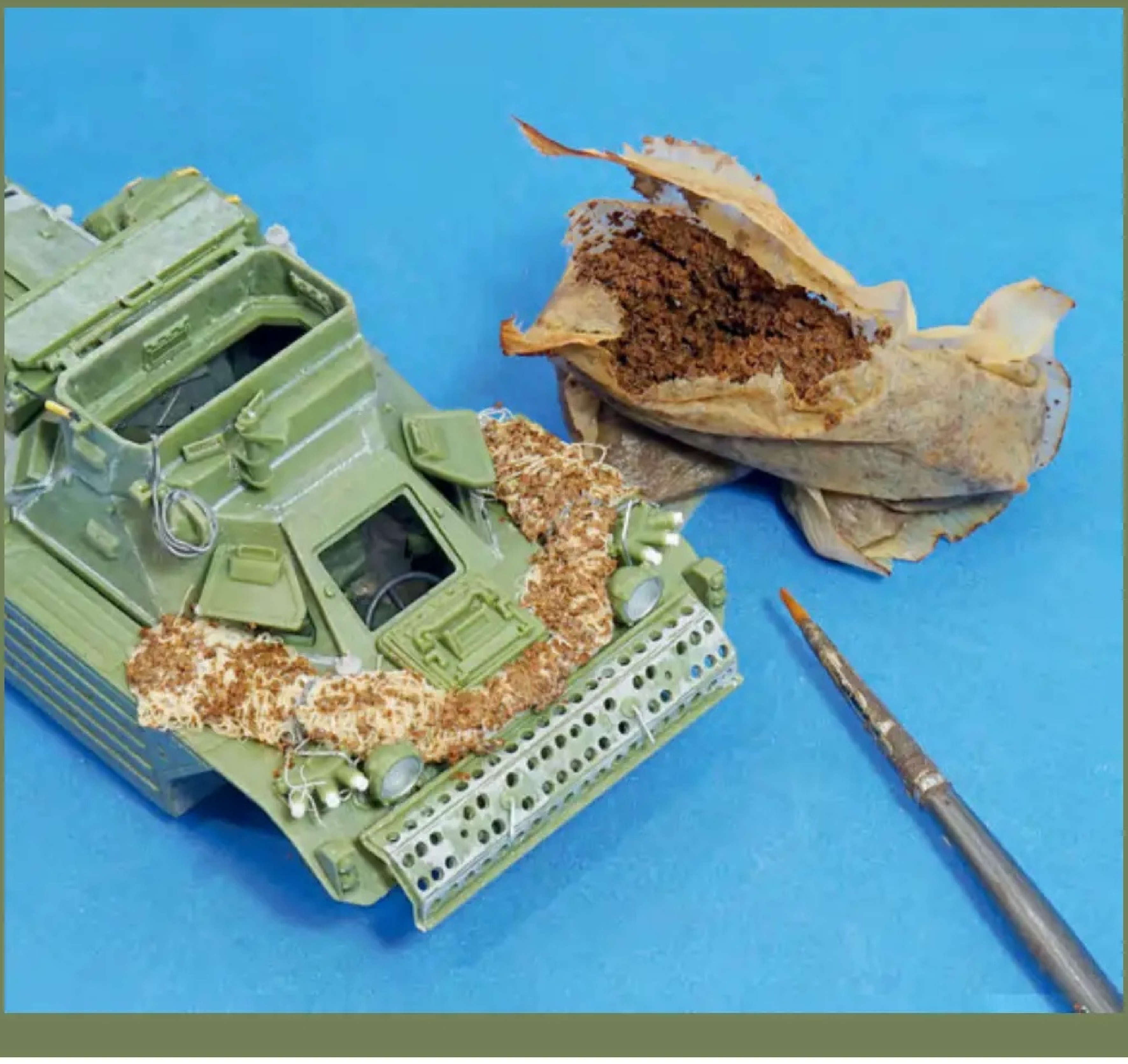


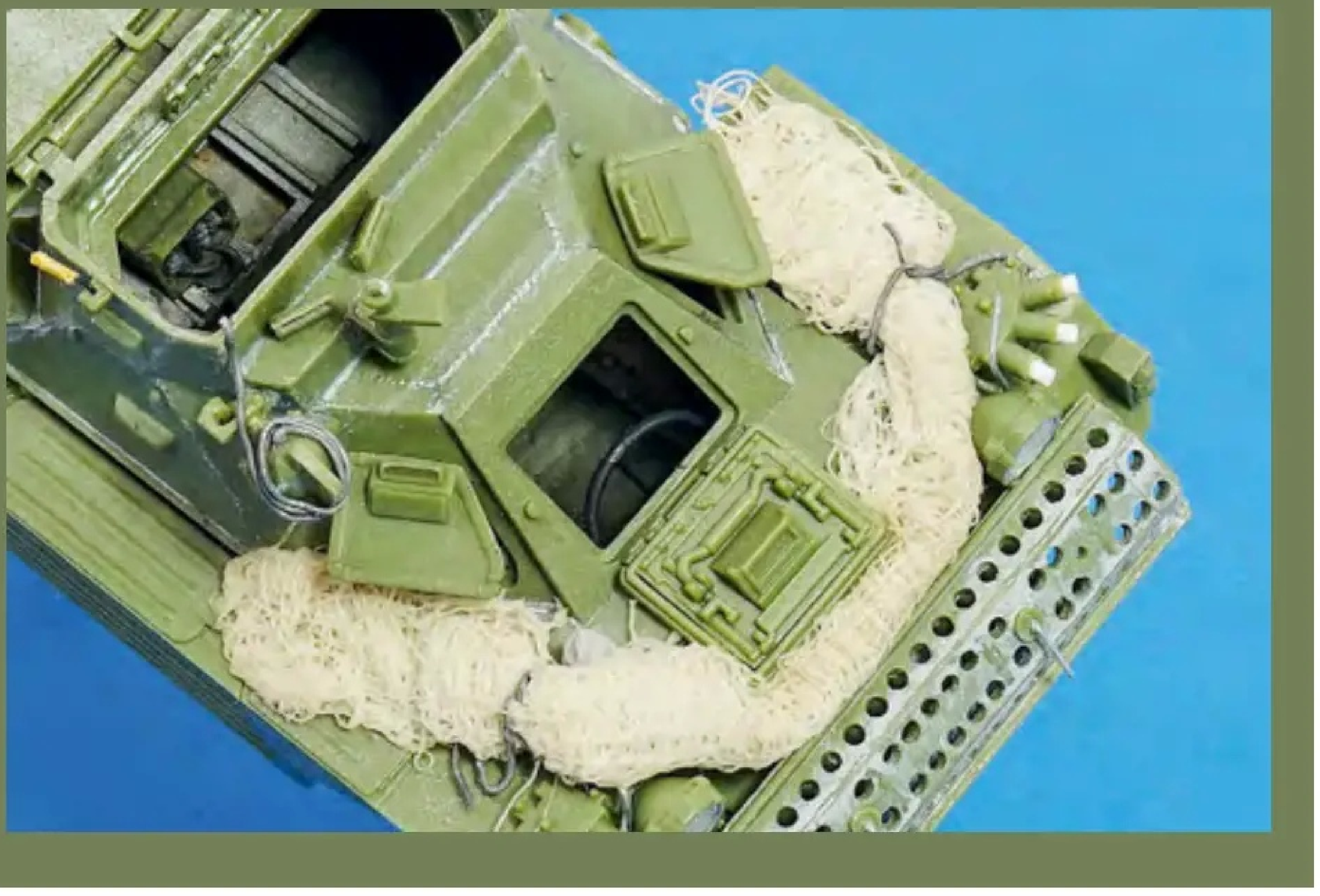
“The moulding quality is commendable, free from flash, warping, or shrinkage”

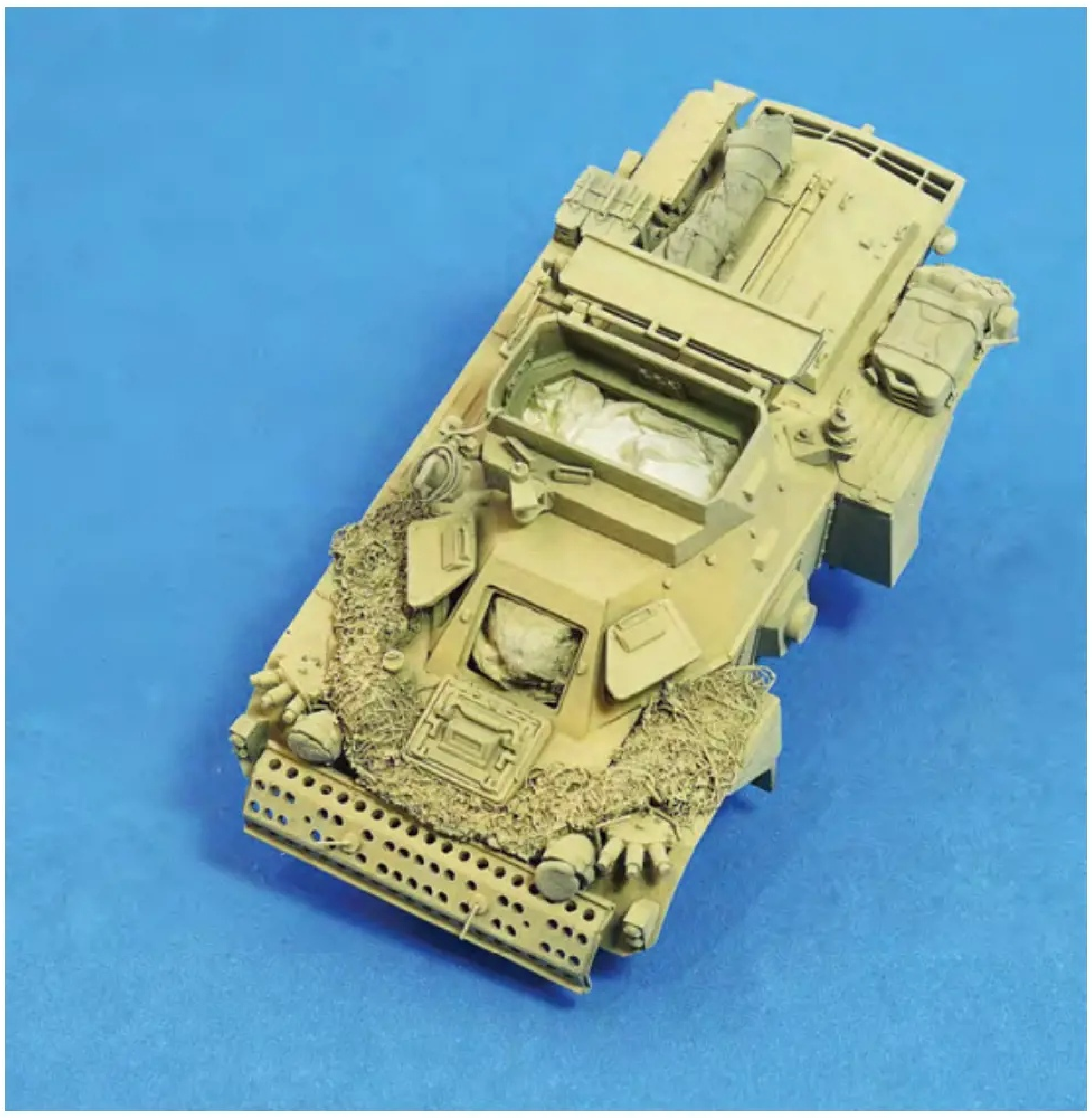
chipping, which is a popular method among scale modelers and miniature painters for creating realistic worn paint and weathering effects. The name is derived from the use of ordinary hairspray as a temporary, water-soluble barrier between layers of paint. The process begins with the application of a base coat. Once this layer is completely dry, the modeler applies a thin, even coat of inexpensive hairspray over the surface. This barrier will later allow selective removal of the top coat. When the hairspray has dried, the final colour is applied, usually by airbrush for an even finish. The paint is allowed to dry just enough to handle, but not so long that it fully cures. At this point, water is introduced to the surface,

ROLLED MESH

A distinctive feature of Ferrets deployed in support of the 1990-91 Gulf War was the use of camouflage nets. An example was replicated via a piece of book-binding material, which was cut to size and soaked in diluted PVA glue. While still damp, the net was draped over the vehicle and carefully worked into position, so it settled naturally across the contours. Once satisfied with the arrangement, tea leaves were dabbed onto the surface with an old brush to suggest scrim and foliage, then fixed with another application of PVA.



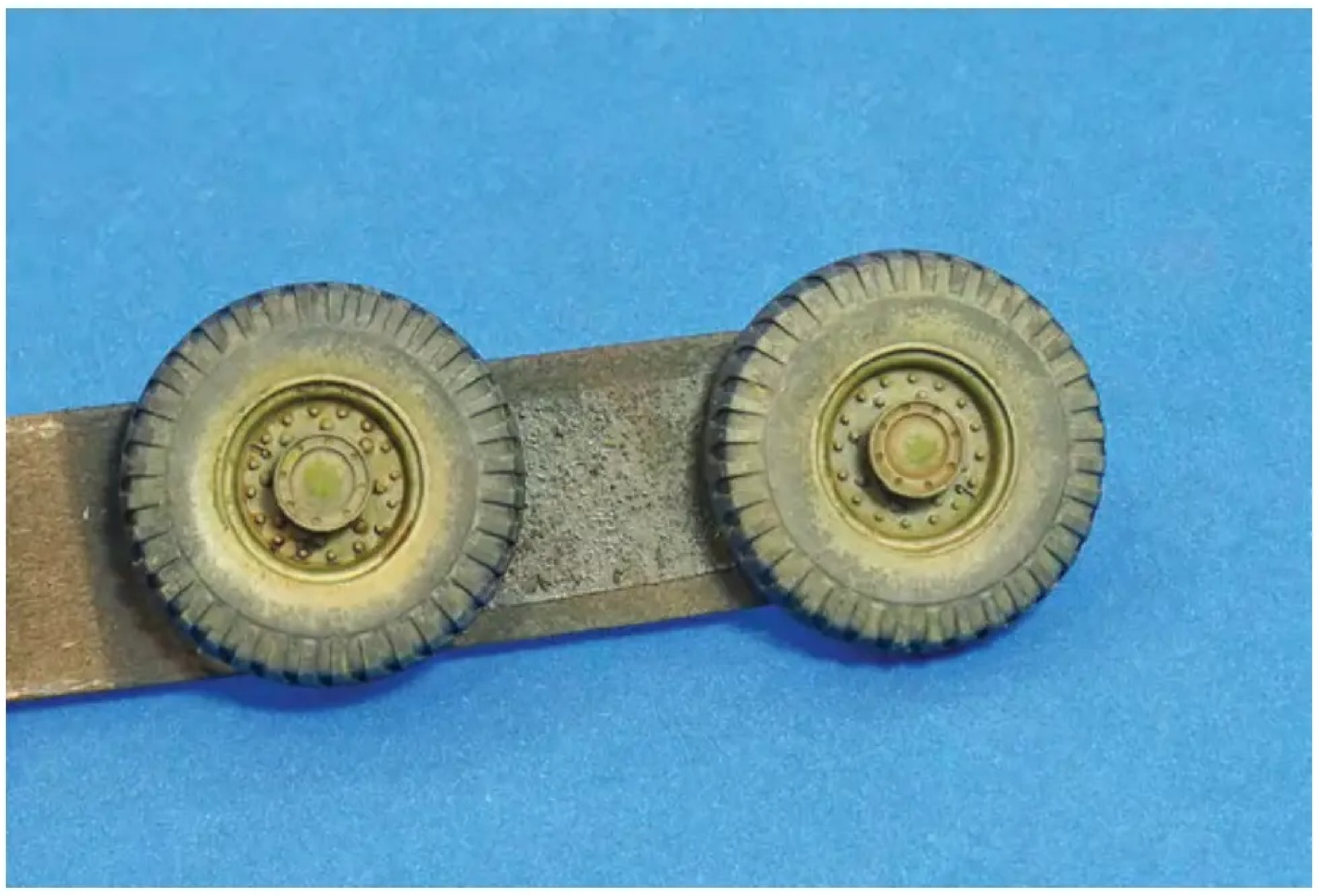




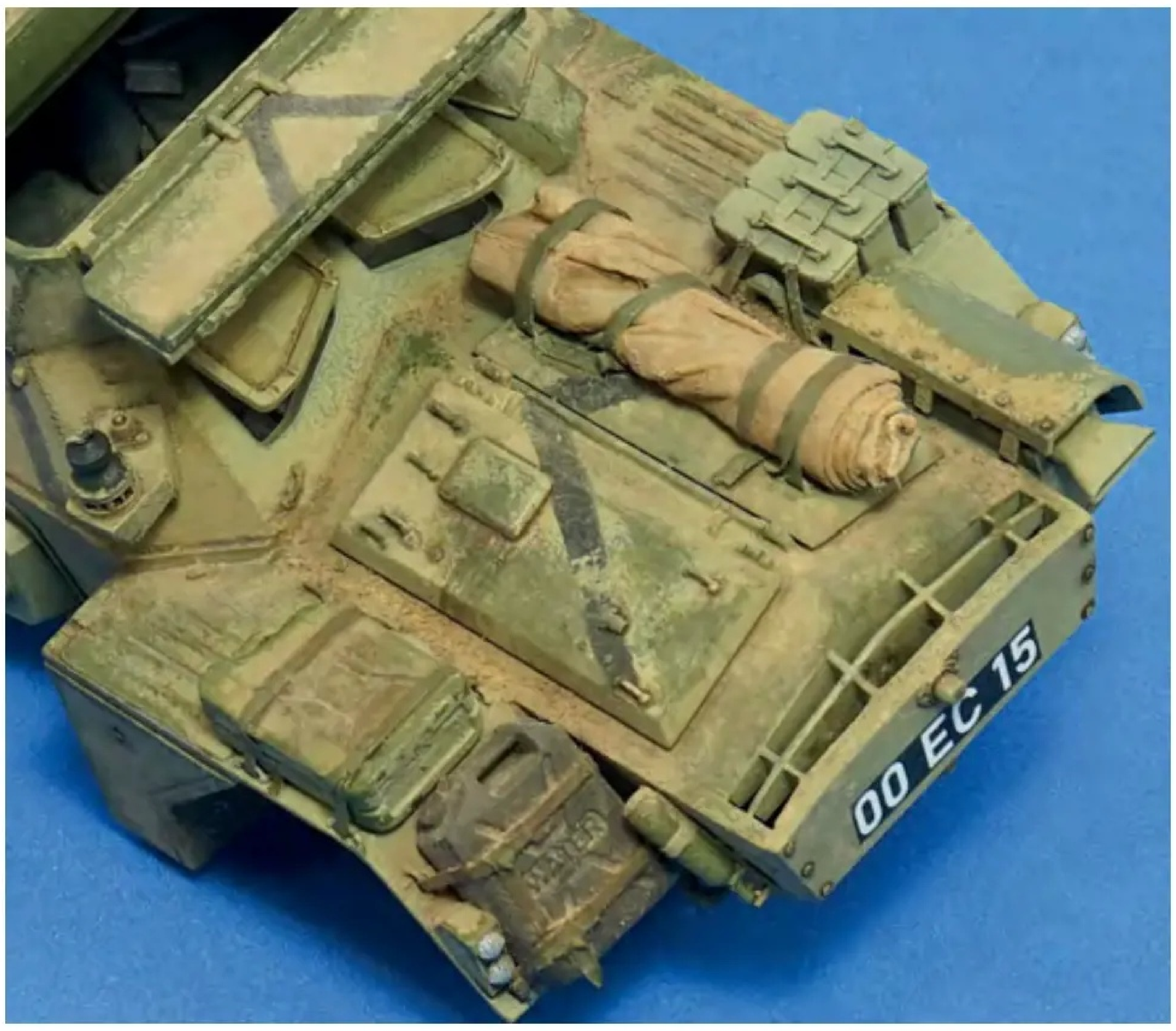
▶ Olive Drab, mixed with a drop of gloss varnish to improve flow and strengthen the base coat, was airbrushed across the model to represent NATO Green. Once dry, a light coat of hairspray was applied; this served as a water-soluble barrier between the green base and the overlying XF-68 Dark Sand 2, which was sprayed in thin layers. After decals were added and the ID chevrons hand-painted, the sand layer could be carefully worn away, via warm water and a suitably-sized brush, removing it in a controlled manner to reveal the underlying green.

which softens the hairspray layer beneath. Using tools such as stiff brushes, toothpicks, or even sponges, the modeler gently chips away small sections of the top coat, revealing the base colour underneath in a naturally random pattern.

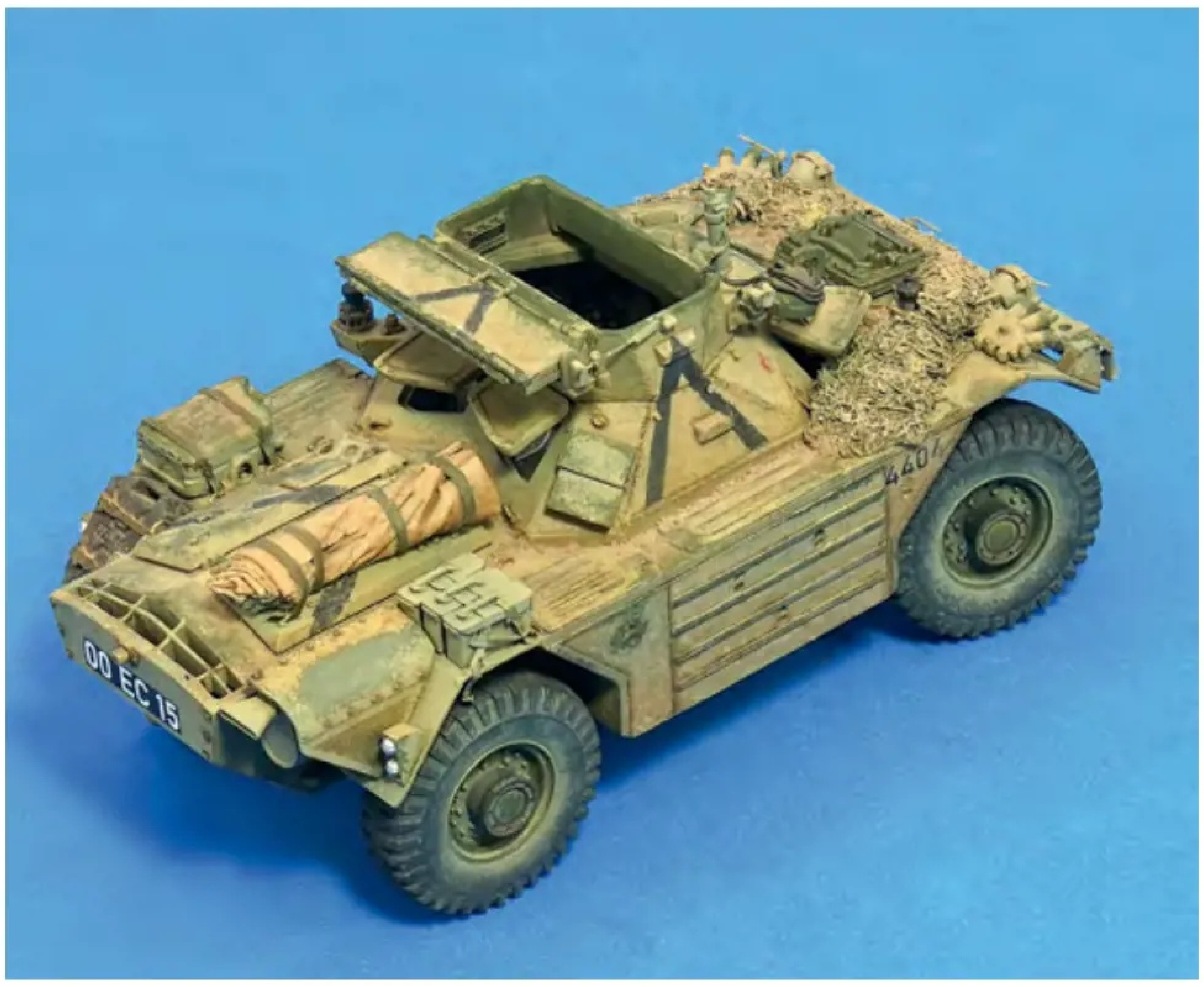
For this build, efforts began with a base green, using AK11339 ▶



▲ The wheels and tyres were finished as per the hull. Dark Sand was applied sparingly to the wheel hubs, as the harsh desert climate would quickly sandblast much of the finish away to reveal the green.



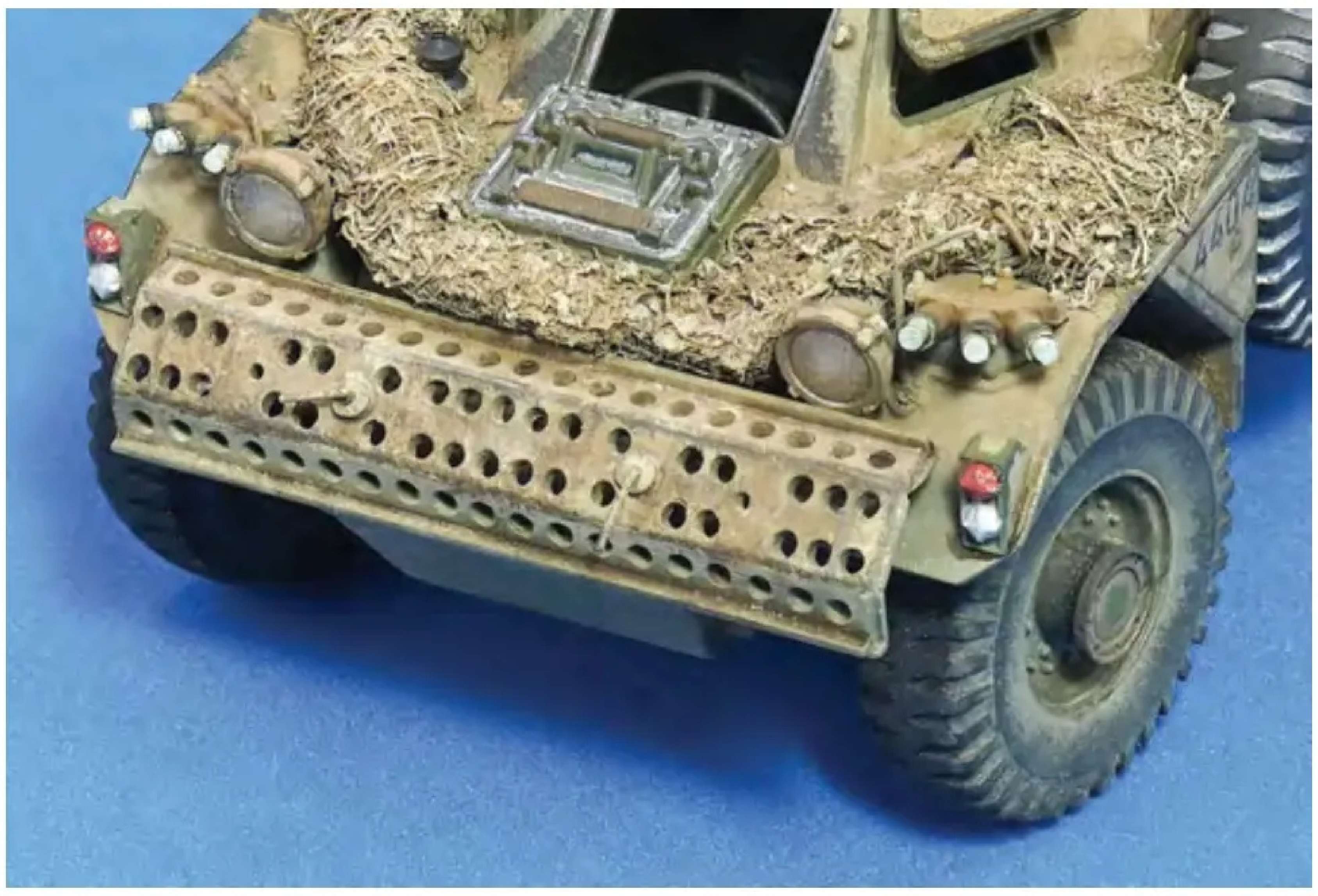
▲ The engine decks received a particularly worn appearance and, once the desired effect was achieved, it was enhanced further by hand-brushing selected areas with shades of green to reinforce the underlying colour.



▲ Fine soil was then applied to natural recesses where dust and debris would accumulate, being secured with Sand and Gravel Fixer. The finish was blended seamlessly using MIG pigments. The chemical-resistant tarpaulin, issued during the Gulf War, was recreated from thick paper and secured using the tie-down loops.

Olive Drab over an undercoat AK758 Grey Primer & Microfiller. After the green layer had dried fully, a thin coat of hairspray was applied. Turning to Tamiya XF-88 Dark Yellow 2 for the sand-coloured top coat, this was duly airbrushed, with the intention of creating a worn finish where the paint appeared rubbed away, exposing the green beneath. The hairspray technique's greatest advantage is controlling the size and intensity of the paint chips, which can be adjusted by varying the amount of water, the type of tool, and the pressure applied. Once the desired wear pattern was achieved, the model was sealed with varnish to preserve the effect before further detailing.

Next, AK11339 was applied by brush to reinforce the worn effect… this is a great way to strengthen the appearance in selected areas. Decals were positioned carefully on the model, although the Allied recognition symbol was hand painted, as was the case during the preparations for the Gulf War. Pin washes accentuated raised detail and introduced subtle shadowing for depth. This was followed by the careful application of fine dust to areas where debris would accumulate naturally. Once these groundwork materials were positioned with an old brush, they were secured using AK118 Gravel & Sand. After drying, a light dusting of MIG Productions' PO37 Gulf War Sand pigments (now released under the Abteilung502 label) was added to soften the edges and blend the effect seamlessly. With the painting completed, attention turned to the armament. The machine gun was omitted earlier to avoid damage or loss, but now was the right time for its installation. While Airfix's GPMG is acceptable out of the box, a 3D-printed resin version from ITA was preferred here, due to its greater refinement. After some consideration, a suitable weapon mount was fabricated using a combination of the kit parts and scrap plastic card to accommodate the upgrade.



▲ Holes in the sand ramps were moulded solid, but this was corrected with a micro drill. This simple fix improves the appearance of the finished model greatly.

Flexible scout

Airfix's initial Ferret kit was a long-overdue and much-welcomed addition to the 1/35 armour scene. The Mk.I release takes this type forward with clean moulding, thoughtful engineering, and a range of configuration options, delivering both accuracy and flexibility. There is still room for refinement in certain areas, particularly tool detailing and part thickness but overall, it stands as a solid kit that will appeal to both intermediate and advanced modellers. When combined with careful painting and a touch of aftermarket or scratch-built enhancement, the Ferret Mk.I quickly earns its place in any Cold War-era or 'not-so-cold' Gulf War diorama. With the inclusion of the aftermarket elements, its potential has been expanded even further.

MATERIALS AT A GLANCE

Abteilunbg502 (www.ak-interactive.com)
ABT090 Industrial Earth
ABTP037 Gulf War Sand

AK Interactive (www.ak-interactive.com)
AK758 Grey Primer & Microfiller
AK11027 Rubber Black
AK11339 Olive Drab

Inside the Armour (www.insidethearmour.com/)
ITA334025Clansman Radios
ITA335030 Ferret Exterior Basic Set (for Airfix)
ITA335047 L7 GPMG
ITA335085 British tie down/footman loops 2.2mm L Type 2

Tamiya (www.hobbyco.net)
XF-88 Dark Yellow 2

Vallejo (www.creativemodels.co.uk)
77.717. Dull Aluminium

SWS 1/32 NO.25

Zoukei-Mura 1/32 Scale Model Kit

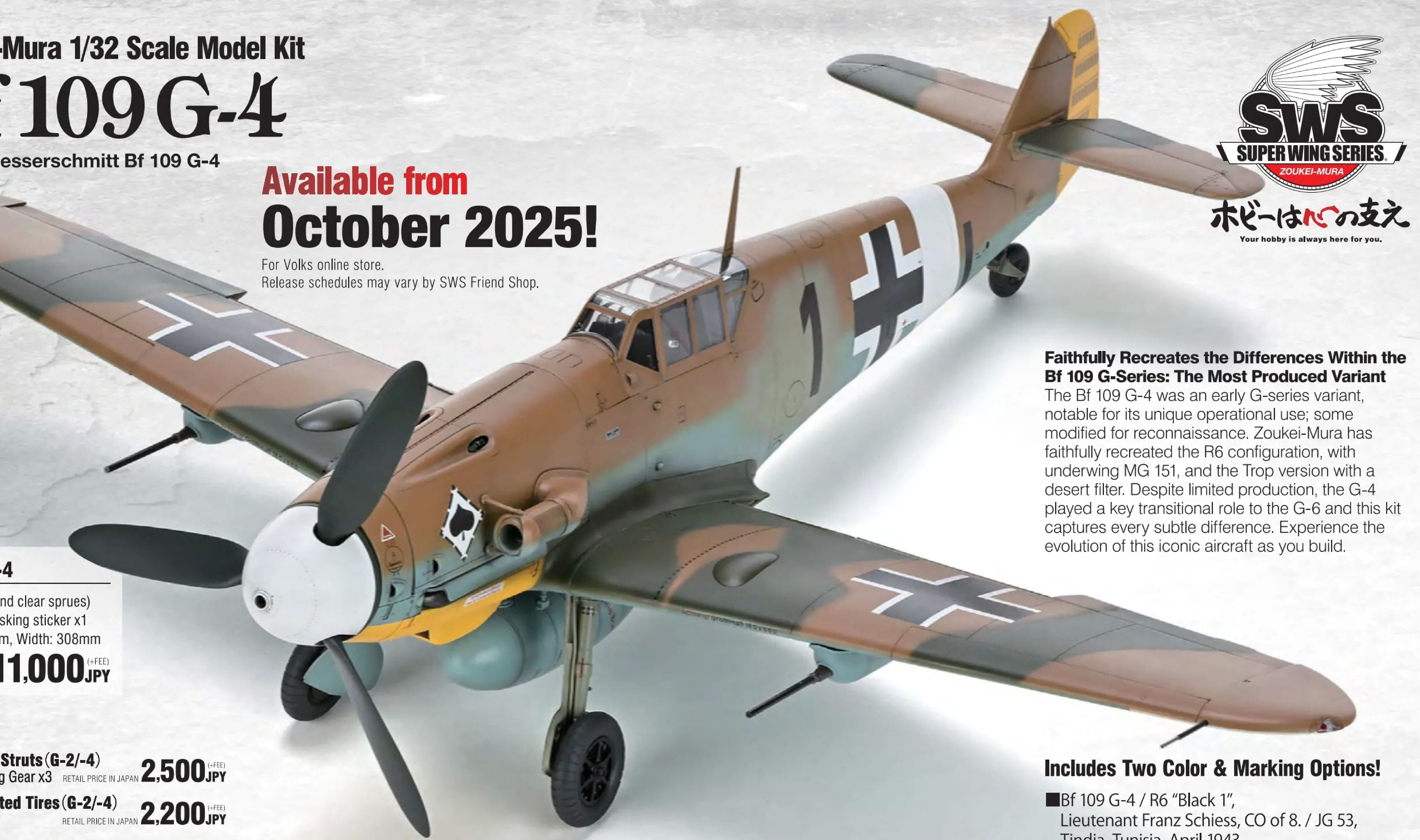
Bf 109 G-4

Messerschmitt Bf 109 G-4

Available from October 2025!

For Volks online store.
Release schedules may vary by SWS Friend Shop.

SWS SUPER WING SERIES ZOUKEI-MURA
ホビーは心の支え
Your hobby is always here for you.



SWS
Bf 109 G-4

NEW

Messerschmitt Bf 109 G-4

- Plastic injection-molded kit (gray and clear sprues)
- Included Items: Decal sheet x1, Masking sticker x1
- Size: Length: 281mm, Height: 77mm, Width: 308mm
- Total Parts: 350

RETAIL PRICE IN JAPAN **11,000JPY** (+FEE)

Faithfully Recreates the Differences Within the Bf 109 G-Series: The Most Produced Variant

The Bf 109 G-4 was an early G-series variant, notable for its unique operational use; some modified for reconnaissance. Zoukei-Mura has faithfully recreated the R6 configuration, with underwing MG 151, and the Trop version with a desert filter. Despite limited production, the G-4 played a key transitional role to the G-6 and this kit captures every subtle difference. Experience the evolution of this iconic aircraft as you build.

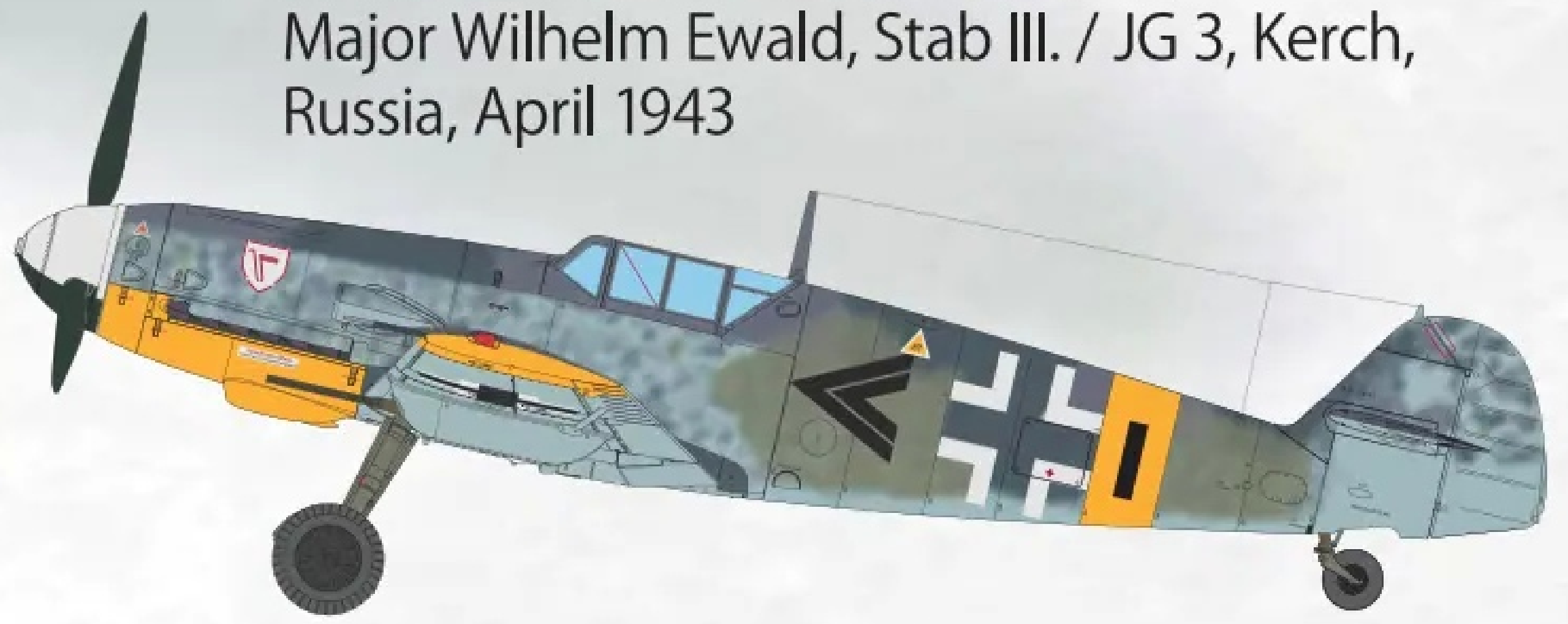
Optional Parts

- **Bf 109 G Early Version Metal Struts (G-2/-4)**
  Main Landing Gear x2, Rear Landing Gear x3 — RETAIL PRICE IN JAPAN **2,500JPY** (+FEE)
- **Bf 109 G Early Version Weighted Tires (G-2/-4)**
  Main Tire x2, Rear Tire x2 — RETAIL PRICE IN JAPAN **2,200JPY** (+FEE)

Includes Two Color & Marking Options!

■Bf 109 G-4 / R6 “Black 1”,
Lieutenant Franz Schiess, CO of 8. / JG 53,
Tindja, Tunisia, April 1943
※Model pictured

■Bf 109 G-4 / R6 “Double Chevron”,
Major Wilhelm Ewald, Stab III. / JG 3, Kerch,
Russia, April 1943



Aerodynamic design: Bf109’s secret to high speed and agility!

Cockpit layout: German rationalism and precision at its finest!

Wing structural design: optimized for hit-and-run tactics!

ORDER HERE!

- ZOUKEI-MURA WEBSITE — zoukeimura en
- There are 117 official SWS Friend Shops (Retailers) and Affiliated Stores worldwide, contact the one nearest you!

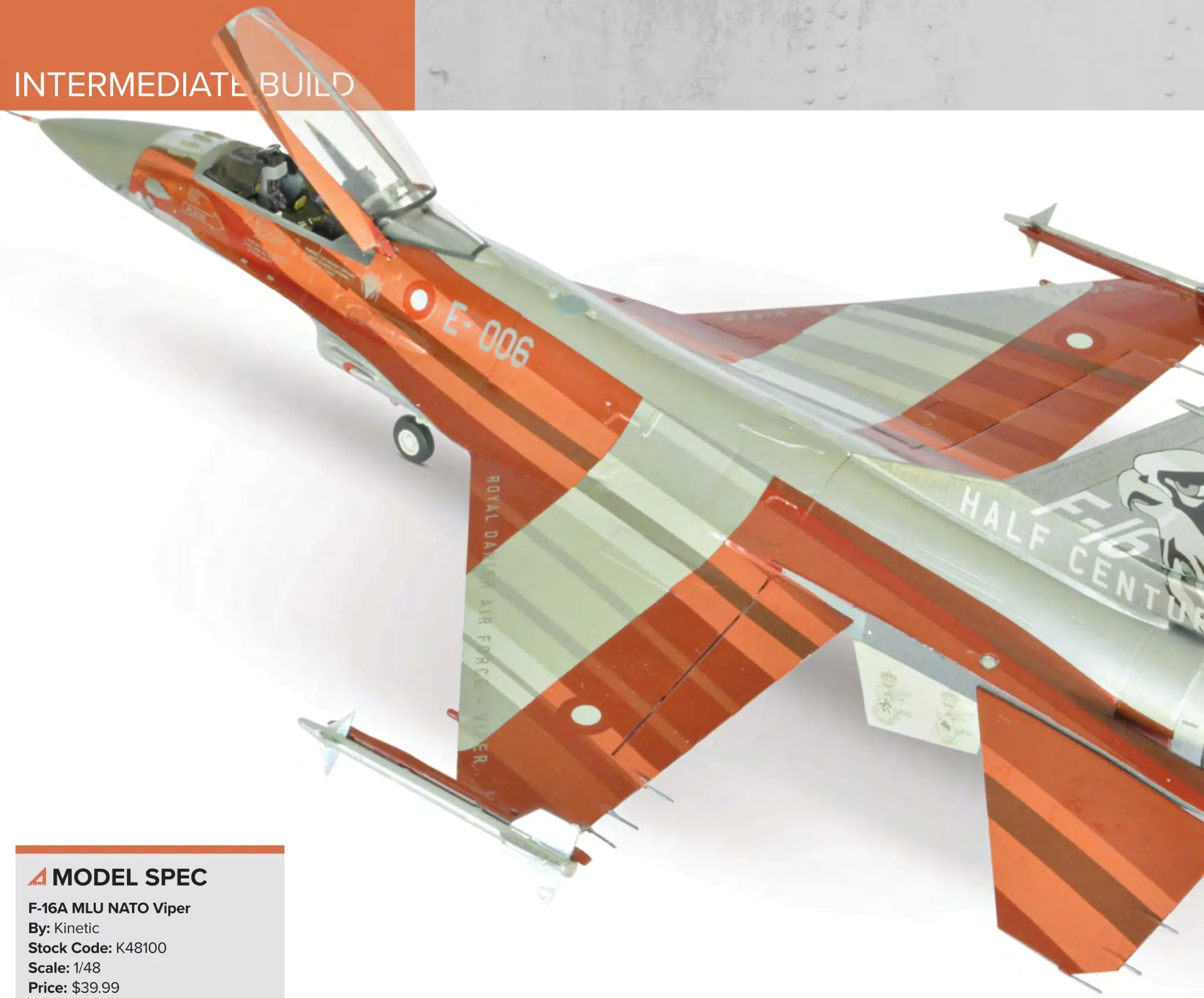
The Old man Blog

- Zoukei-Mura SWS Development Commander talks about his vision and philosophy for SWS. — zoukei-mura oyaji

造形村 ZOUKEI-MURA INC.

Check out our official website for the schedules and details! Schedule may vary for SWS Friend Shops. Contact your local store for details.

©VOLKS INC.


E-006
ROYAL DANISH AIR FORCE - VIPER
HALF CENTURY
F-16

FLYVEVABEN FAREWELL

A smart Royal Danish Air Force 50th anniversary livery caught **Huw Morgan's** eye... here he shows how to recreate this scheme using Kinetic's 1/48 F-16A MLU and Syhart's decals.

MODEL SPEC

F-16A MLU NATO Viper
By: Kinetic
Stock Code: K48100
Scale: 1/48
Price: $39.99
Available From: www.luckymodel.com

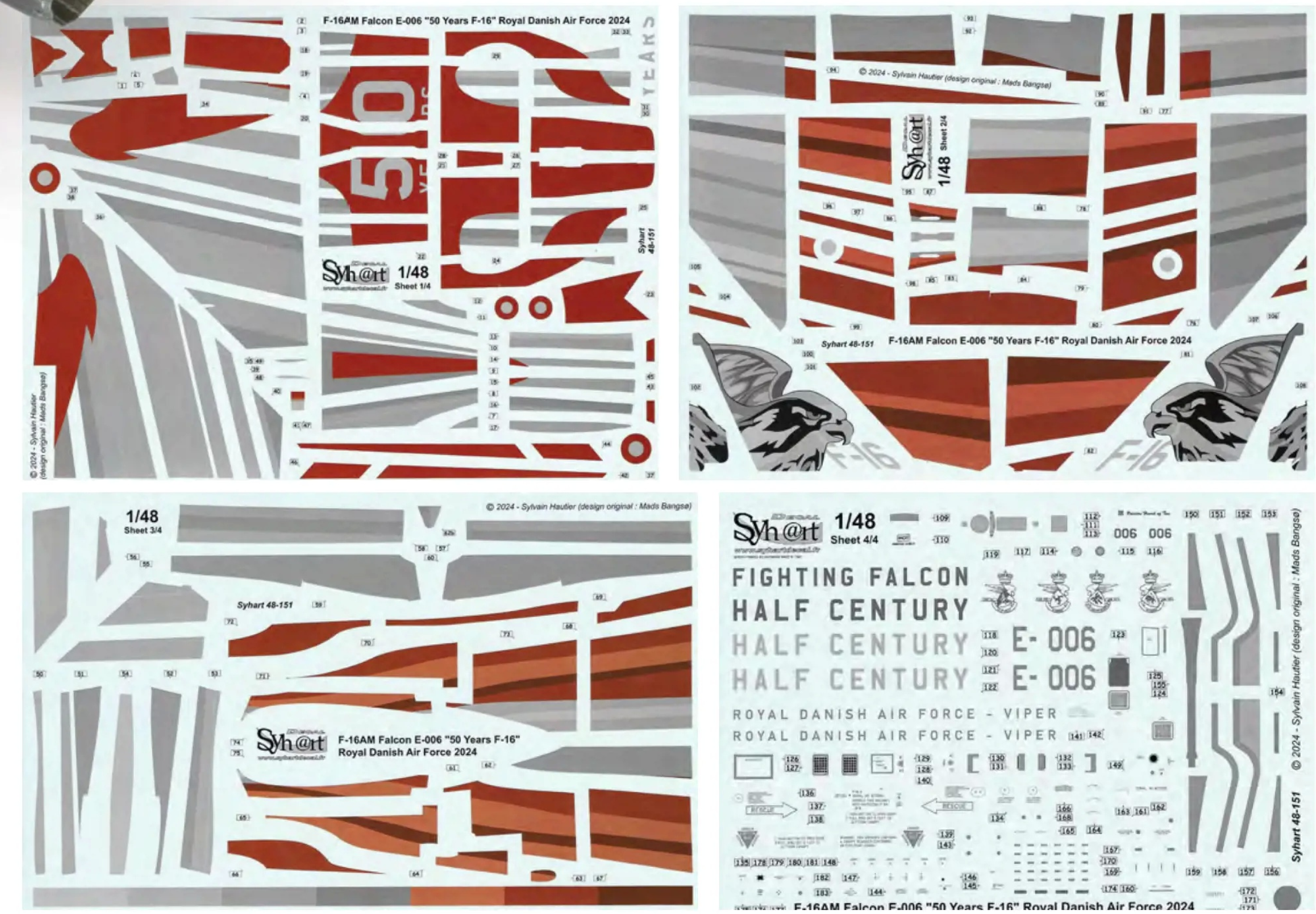
KINETIC GOLD
F-16A
MLU NATO VIPER
SCALE 1:48
K48100

Developed during the 1970s, General Dynamics' (now Lockheed-Martin) F-16 Fighting Falcon was conceived as a basic 'day fighter' for the US Air Force as part of a high-low mix with the McDonnell Douglas (now Boeing) F-15 Eagle. The F-16 was subsequently exported – in increasingly complex and multi-role configurations – to 30 nations. It also has the unusual achievement in being a USAF type that was later utilised by the US Navy, albeit as an aggressor aircraft. More than 4,600 airframes have been built, including those under licence and, despite being replaced by more modern types such as the F-35 Lightning II, remains one of the world's most numerous military aircraft. Several European air forces were among the early customers, with 348 F-16A/B airframes built by a consortium of the US and four NATO members (Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium and Norway) for use by those air arms, with most being assembled in Belgium from components made by all five participants.

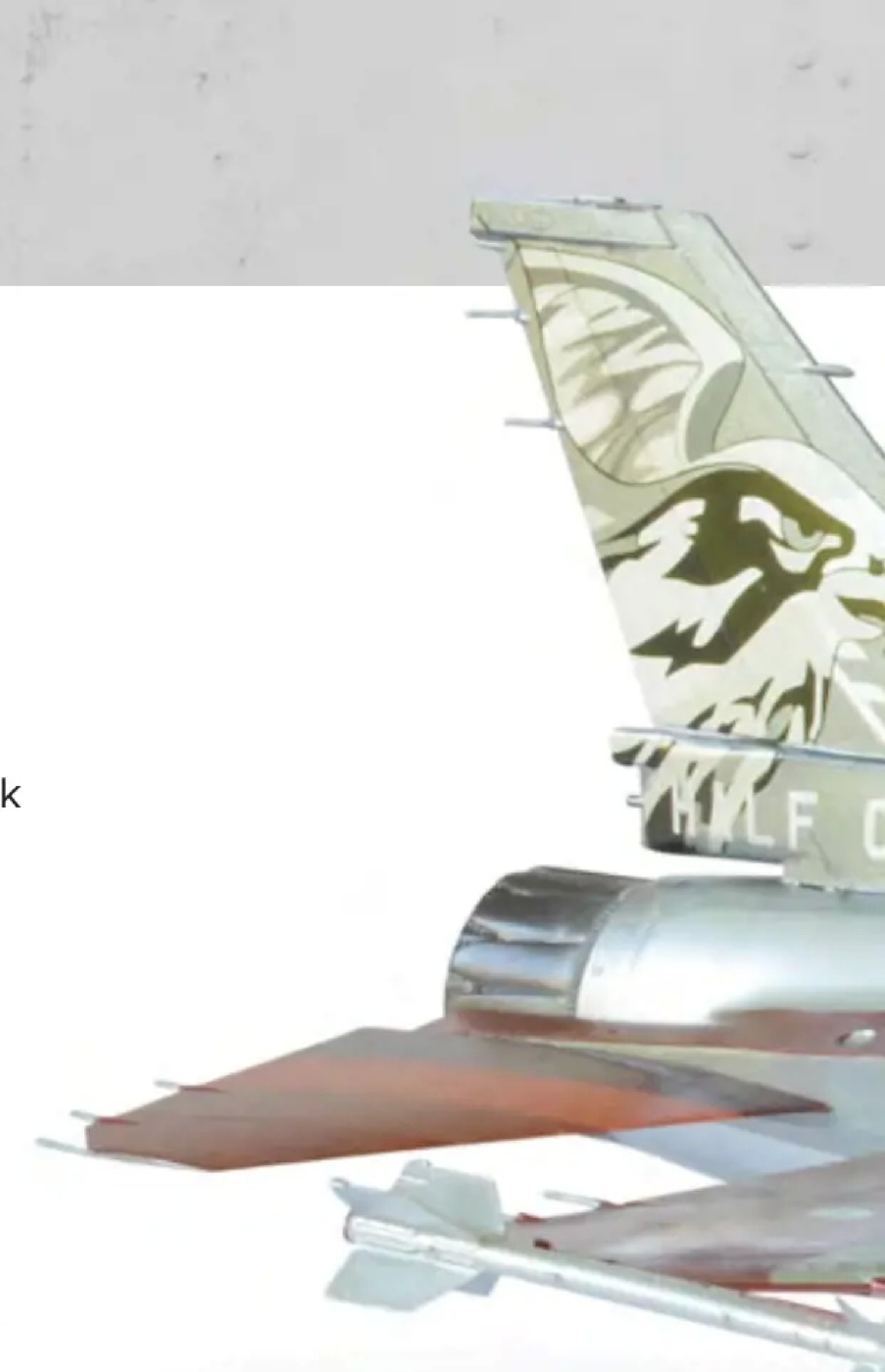
Throughout its life the F-16 has been enhanced via avionics and engine upgrades, and specific sub-variants have been developed to suit particular customer needs, adding conformal fuel tanks, braking parachutes and nation-specific weapons as required. European F-16s entered a major Mid-Life Upgrade (MLU) programme in the late 1990s, raising them to an equivalent standard of the USAF F-16C/D Block 40/42/50/52 airframes. Changes included incorporation of AIM-120 AMRAAM, new cockpit displays, improved radar and fuselage strengthening. Aircraft receiving these upgrades were generally re-classified as F-16AM/BM (M for MLU). The most recent combat use of the F-16 has been in the conflict in Ukraine where surplus airframes from Denmark, Belgium and the Netherlands have been refurbished to defend that nation against Russia.

Striped Falcon

The airframe modelled here – E-006 – wears the colourful Royal Danish Air Force (RDAF) 2024-25 display scheme and represents almost the last of its type in that nation's service before its refurbishment for transfer to Ukraine. The RDAF originally bought 77 F-16A/B airframes, with more than 60 upgraded to MLU standard via the Pacer Loft programme. The display airframe is striking, marked in radiating stripes comprising two tones of metallic silver and grey, plus a deep metallic red. Replicating the complex scheme is only made practical, even in 1/48,


F-16AM Falcon E-006 "50 Years F-16" Royal Danish Air Force 2024
Syh@rt 1/48 Sheet 1/4
Syhart 48-151
© 2024 - Sylvain Hautier (design original : Mads Bangsø)
Syh@rt 1/48 Sheet 2/4
Syhart 48-151
F-16AM Falcon E-006 "50 Years F-16" Royal Danish Air Force 2024
© 2024 - Sylvain Hautier (design original : Mads Bangsø)
1/48 Sheet 3/4
© 2024 - Sylvain Hautier (design original : Mads Bangsø)
Syhart 48-151
Syh@rt F-16AM Falcon E-006 "50 Years F-16" Royal Danish Air Force 2024
Syh@rt 1/48 Sheet 4/4
FIGHTING FALCON
HALF CENTURY
HALF CENTURY
HALF CENTURY
E-006
E-006
006 006
ROYAL DANISH AIR FORCE - VIPER
ROYAL DANISH AIR FORCE - VIPER
RESCUE
© 2024 - Sylvain Hautier (design original : Mads Bangsø)
Syhart 48-151
F-16AM Falcon E-006 "50 Years F-16" Royal Danish Air Force 2024

Much of the scheme's complex geometric design is captured in decal form, with three sheets dedicated to these elements, while a fourth supplies full airframe markings and stencils.



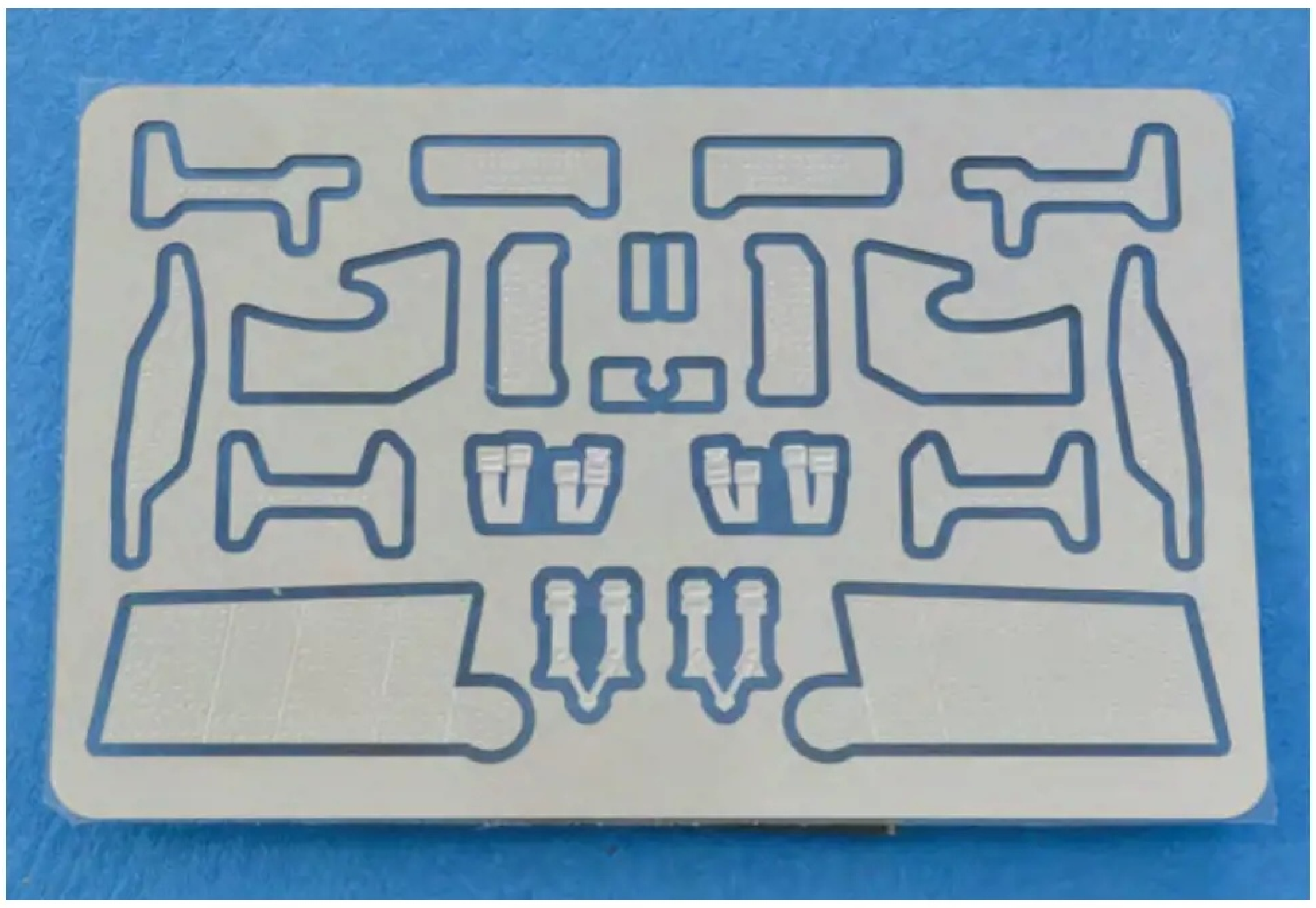
▲ Syhart also offers a set of three paints from associated company Le Petit Matos/LPM to accompany its decal set – these colours are essential as they match the tones in the decals perfectly.

by the extremely comprehensive decal set from French company Syhart (48-151; note, 1/72 and 1/32 versions are also available). There are almost 200 decals (including stencils), with the majority representing a patchwork of coloured panels, which mostly conform to panel demarcations. The 1/48 set is designed for Kinetic's F-16 A/B model so fit to other manufacturers' kits is uncertain. Syhart also recommends acrylic paints specific to the scheme colours, these being manufactured by the company 'Le Petit Matos/LPM'.

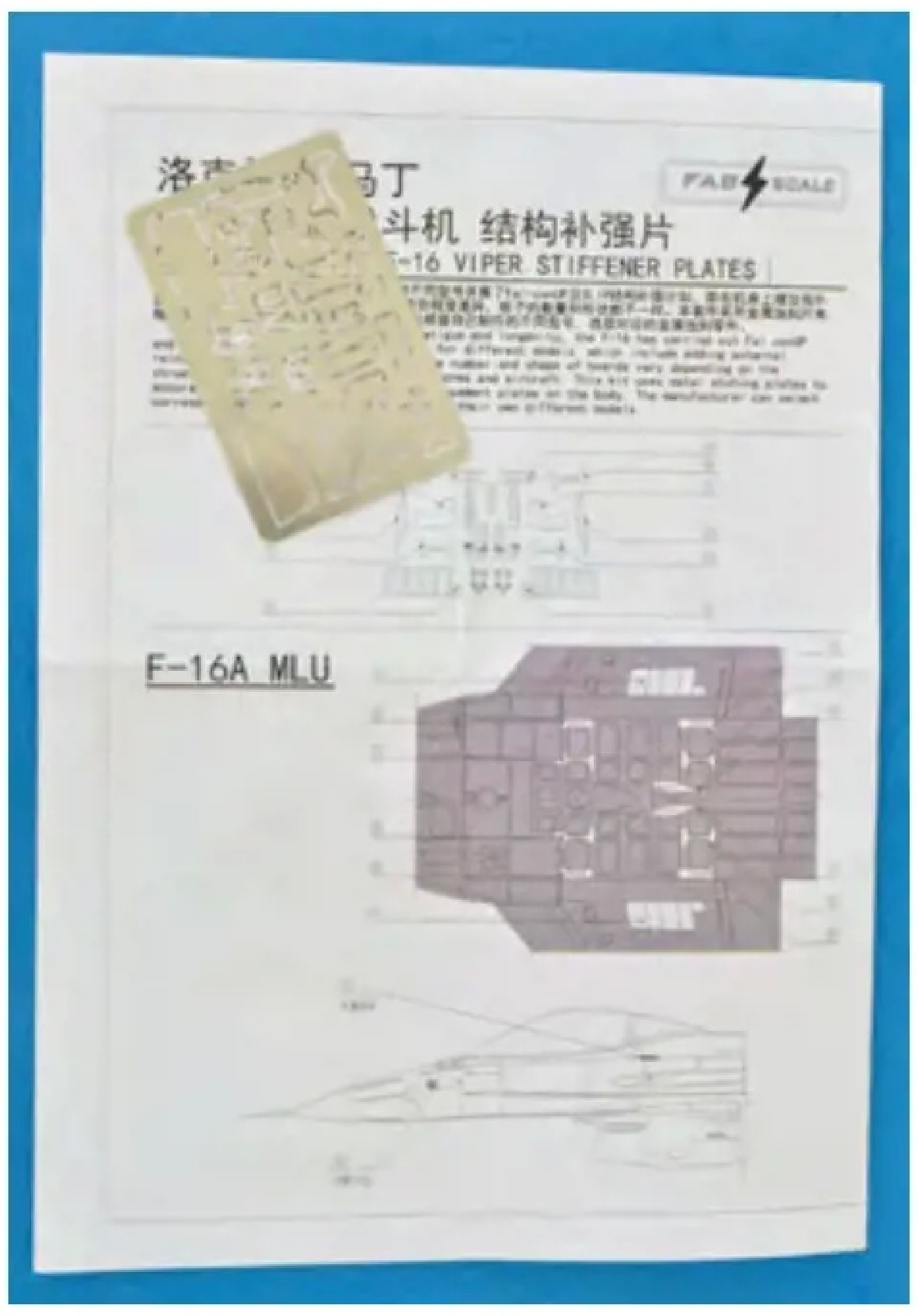
Viper canvas

While the primary focus of this article concerns the application of the complex Danish scheme, and although Kinetic's F-16 family has featured many times in the modelling press, some notes on the physical kit build and improvements made are worth highlighting. The F-16A MLU NATO Viper kit (48100) is a new-tooling, first released in 2022 and comprises more than 220 parts, although duplication for different variants and the plethora of weapons means (for this build) many parts are redundant. There are no photo-etched (PE) or resin items included, while minor modifications are needed to represent a Danish airframe.

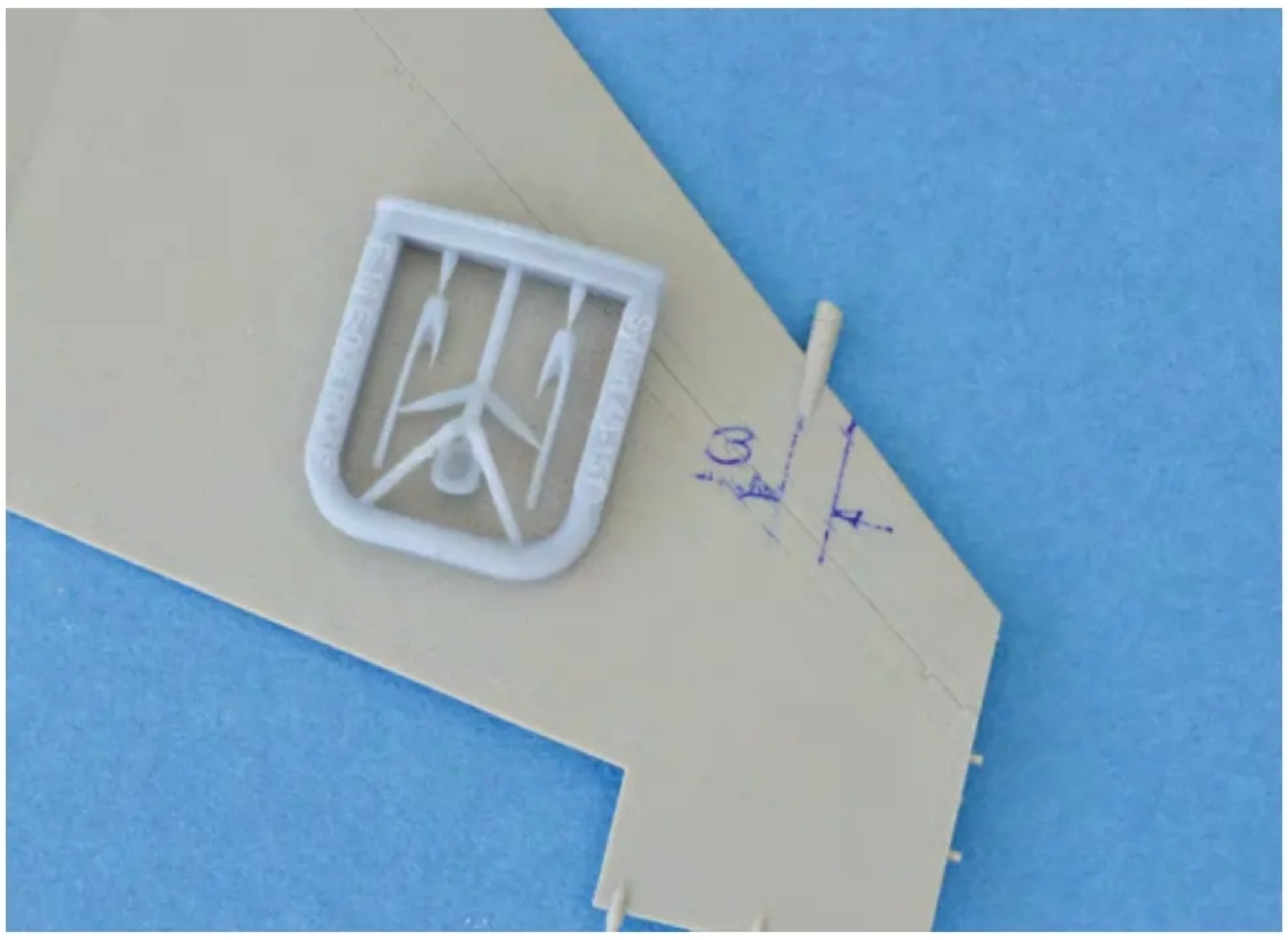
Cockpit assembly is conventional, but disappointingly Kinetic doesn't supply decals for the instrument panels, obliging the modeller to paint them. Instead, Eduard's dedicated F-16A MLU 'Zoom' set (FE1334) was employed... creating a better result than the author could! The styrene ejection seat is acceptable, but is devoid of a harness, plus it appears slightly



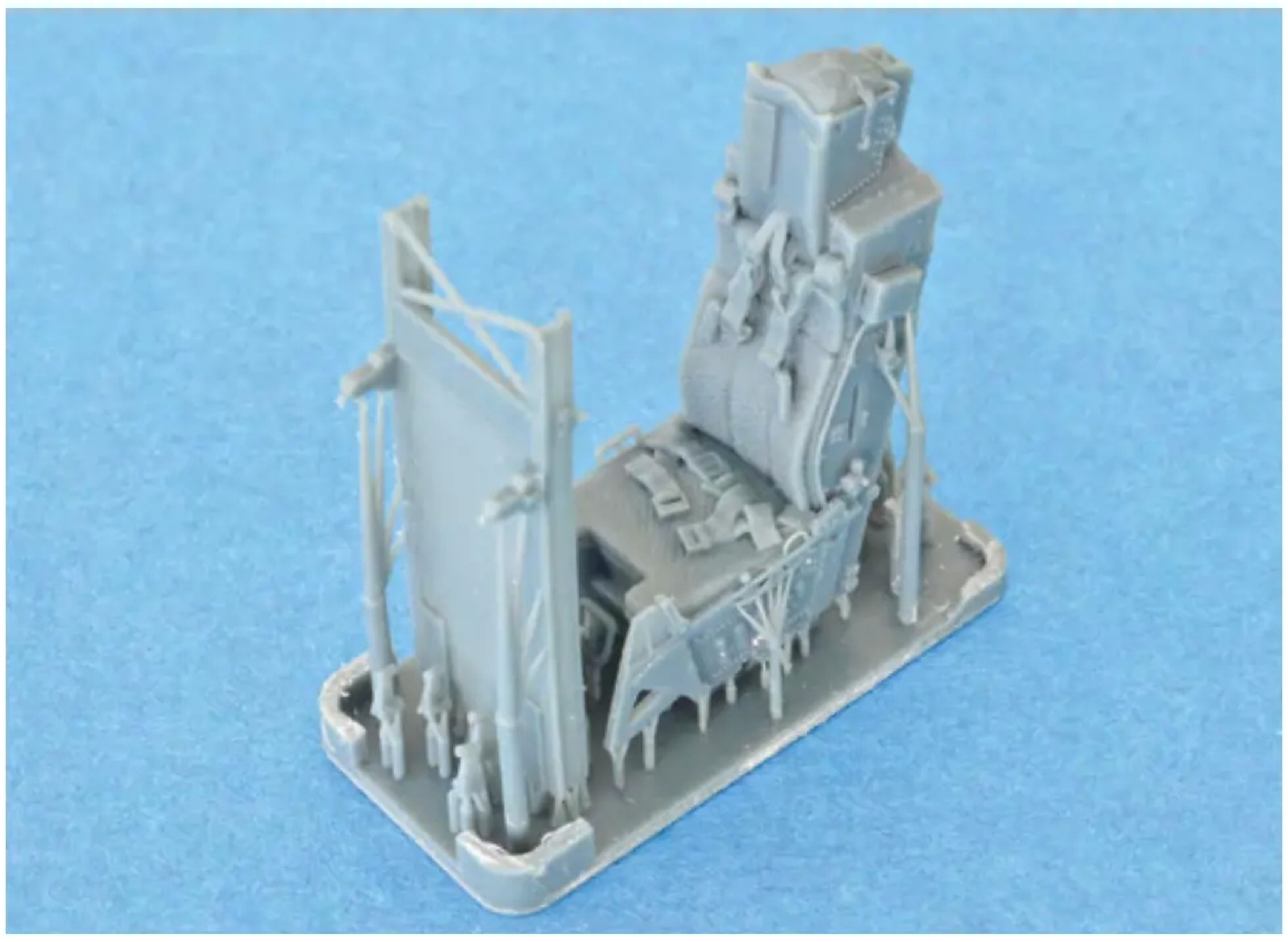
▲ The prominent fuselage stiffening plates added to F-16C/Ds during the MLU programme were replicated with FabScale's PE additions, although decal options are also available.



▲ FabScale includes a comprehensive placement guide, covering not just MLU airframes but also F-16C/D variants.

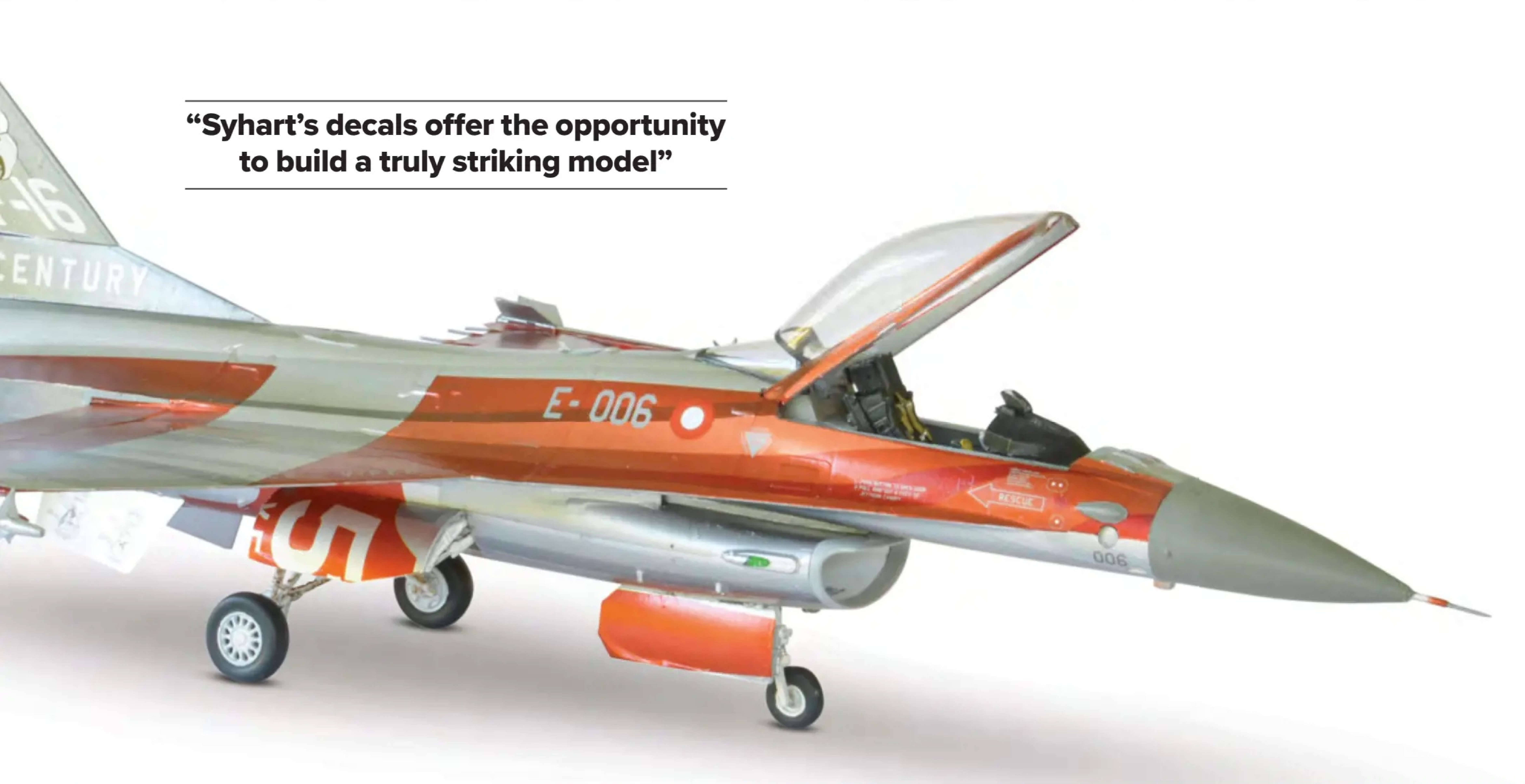


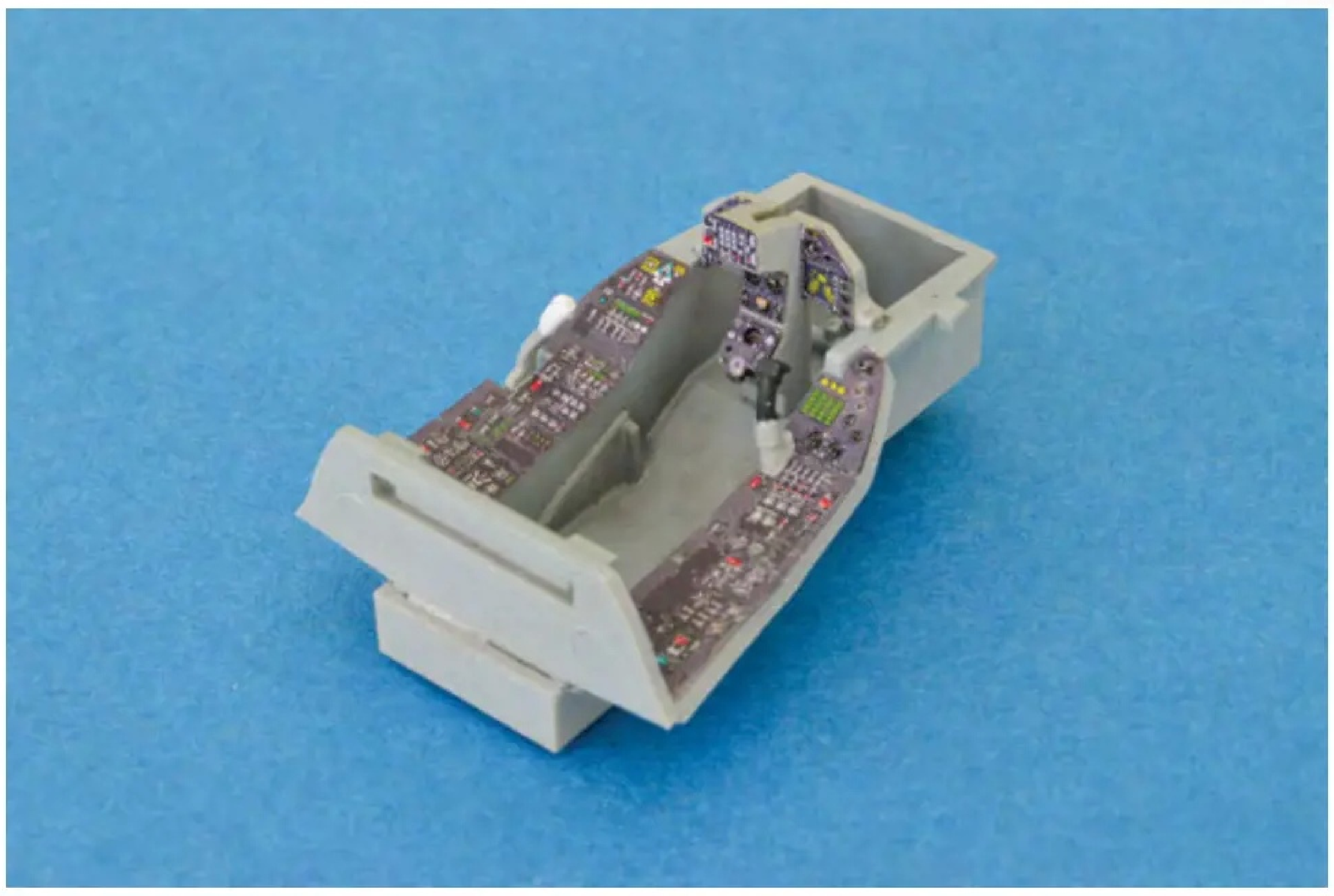
▲ Syhart's instructions – backed by reference photos – show that the position of the radar-warning receiver 'beer can' fairings must be re-located 3mm outboard of their moulded position.



▲ Mini Craft Collection's 3D-printed ACES II ejection seat is far superior to the kit's version, but is slightly too tall for the Kinetic cockpit, needing approximately 2.5mm removing from the base.

“Syhart’s decals offer the opportunity to build a truly striking model”





▲ **The cockpit tub is enhanced significantly by Eduard’s ‘Zoom’ pre-painted PE metal set, after the kit’s raised detail was removed.**

too small (an issue seen on other Kinetic kits). An alternative resin ACES II seat (4812) was sourced from Mini Craft Collection, which has terrific detail, but needed surgery on the base to reduce its height by 2.5mm. The build progresses with further internal sub-assemblies: the main undercarriage bay, jet pipe and nozzle are largely unremarkable construction-wise, although the last item is an awkward five-piece ensemble. These segments are difficult to align, and although the nozzle wasn’t replaced here, it might be on any subsequent build. At the other end, the intake liner is split horizontally, which results in an ugly seam along both sides, so it was replaced by FabScale’s FA48082 3D-printed seamless version and this fits like a glove.

With the internal components installed, the upper and lower fuselage sections came together without drama and attention could turn to adding the missing stiffener plates. Several aftermarket options are available, but it was decided to use FabScale’s product (FA48052PE), which offers nickel-plated PE components; these have no connection stubs, being held in the frame by a clear adhesive film, making them easy to remove. These panels were attached carefully to the airframes using

▶

MATERIALS AT A GLANCE

Eduard (www.eduard.com)
648029 AIM-9M/L
EX929 F-16A MLU mask set
FE1334 F-16 MLU

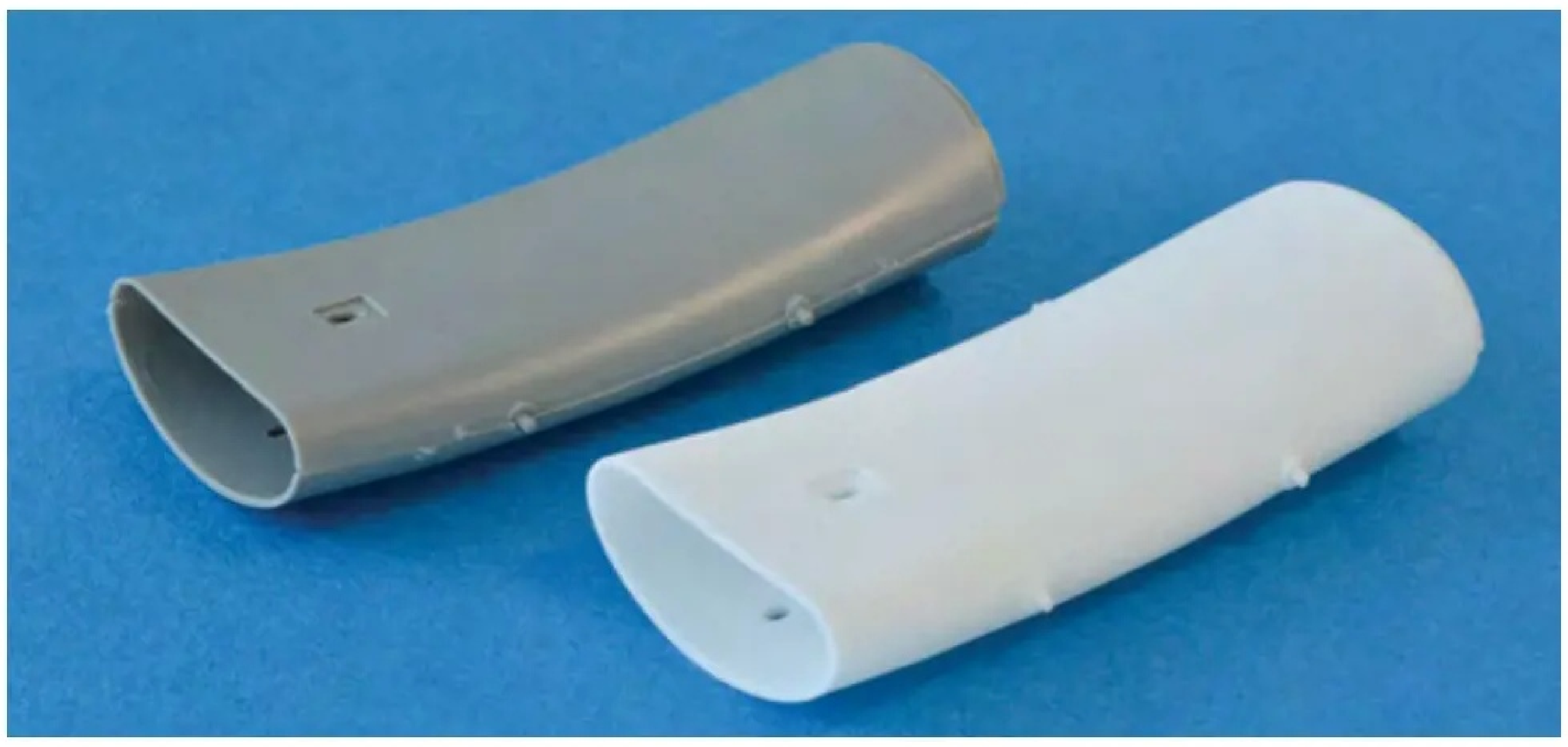
FabScale (via Facebook)
FA48082 Lockheed-Martin F-16C F100 Engine Integrated Intake ‘Small Mouth’
FA48052PE F-16 Stiffener Plates

MINI CRAFT collection (via Facebook)
4812 ACES II seat

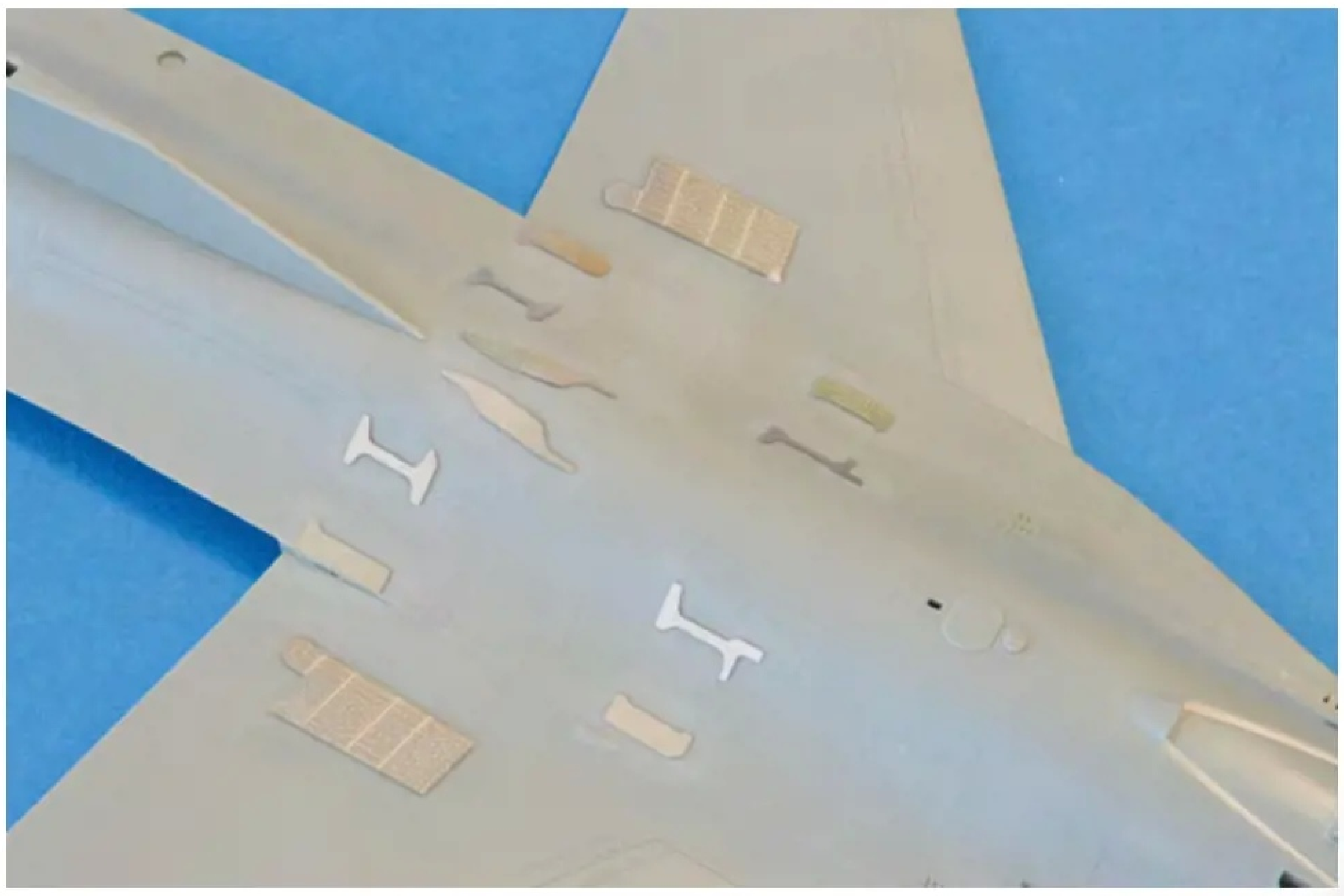
Mr. Hobby (www.albionhobbies.com)
H317 Dark Gull Gray FS 36231

Quickboost (www.e-aires.cz)
QB48389 F-16 Pitot Tube

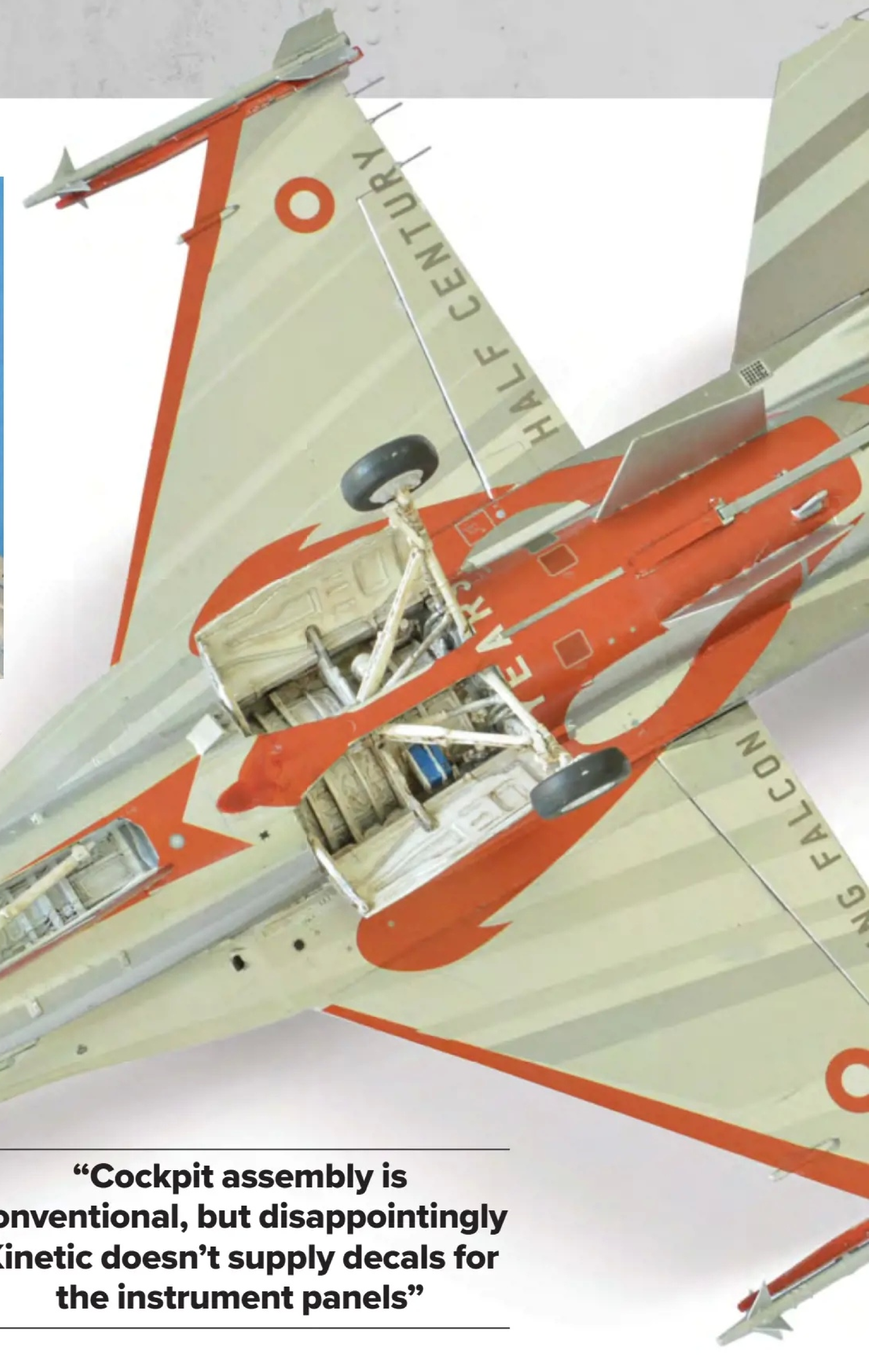
Syhart Decal/LPM (www.syhartdecal.fr)
48-151 F-16AM E-006 ‘Dannebrog 50 Years F-16’ Royal Danish Air Force – 2024
E-006-Silver 1 Metallic Brilliant Silver
E-006-Silver 3 Metallic Stratus Grey
E-006-Red 2 Metallic Sakhir Orange



▲ **FabScale’s one-piece, seamless intake duct avoids the styrene assembly’s horizontal seam at a stroke, and fits the kit perfectly.**



▲ **FabScale's airframe stiffener plates were positioned carefully after checking with the instructions; several required minor shaping to conform with the fuselage curves,**



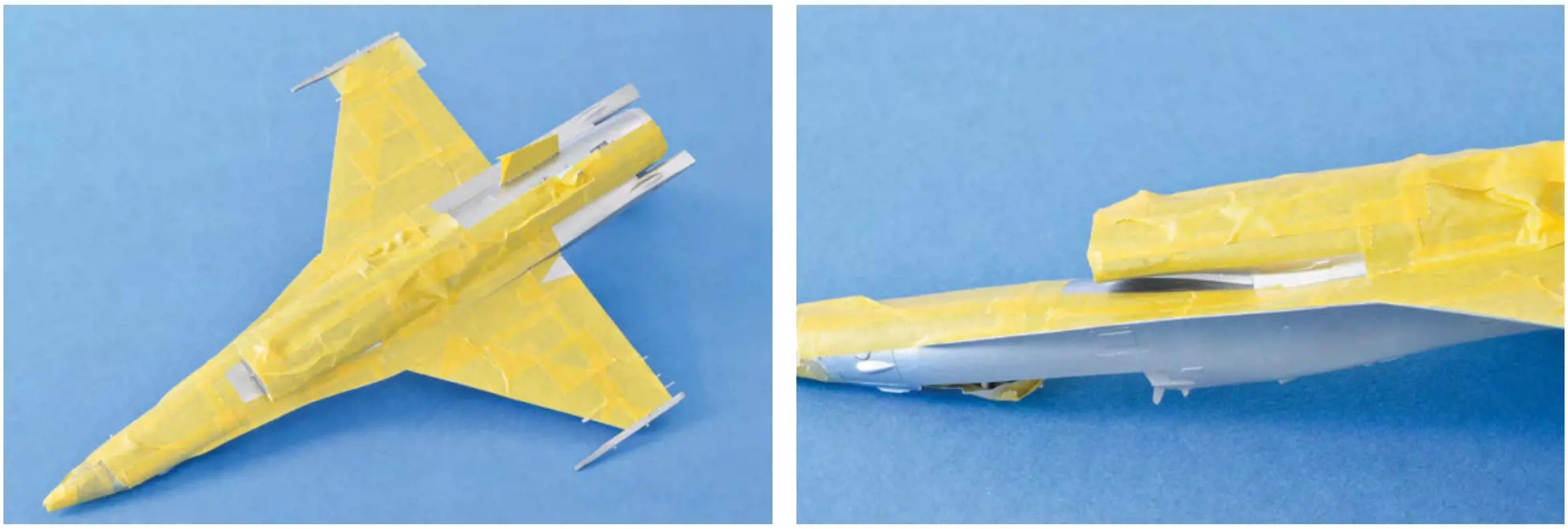
> **"Cockpit assembly is conventional, but disappointingly Kinetic doesn't supply decals for the instrument panels"**

FabScale's excellent location guide, with just minor bending/shaping needed before they conformed to the surface.

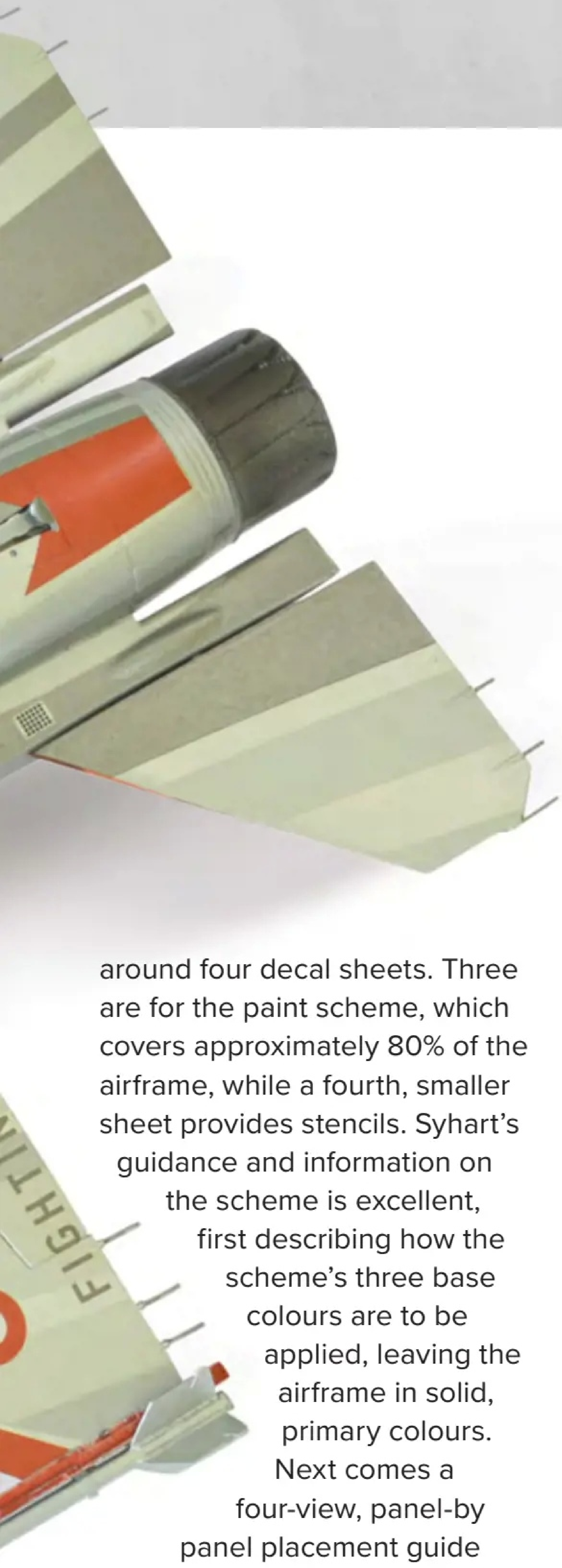
Airframe construction could now be completed, the undercarriage being prepared and painted conventionally, but left aside pending painting, and the radome glued shut. Both canopy sections have very faint mould seams along their centrelines – a consequence of moulding the correct 'blown' profile – but these were easily removed by gentle sanding with 8,000-grade Micro Mesh cloths, followed by polishing with NOVUS plastic polish.

'Colouring in'

From the outset, it's clear Syhart's decal set is a complete painting/placement system, including replacement resin radar-warning receiver fairings, and is based

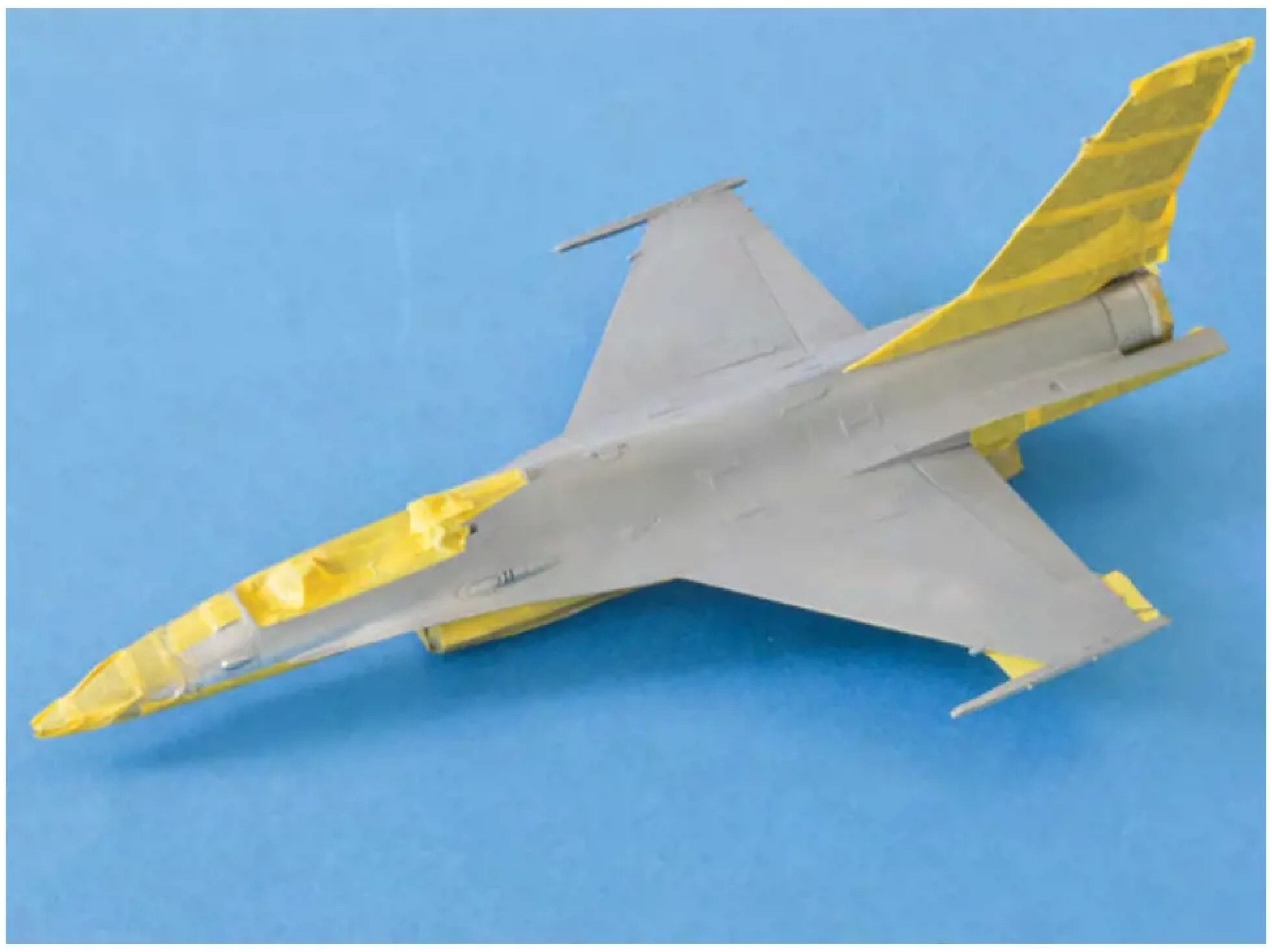


Once the initial Brilliant Silver paint had cured fully, the rather complex masking for the second colour, Metallic Stratus Grey, was added, referring constantly to Syhart's colour diagrams to ensure correct placement.

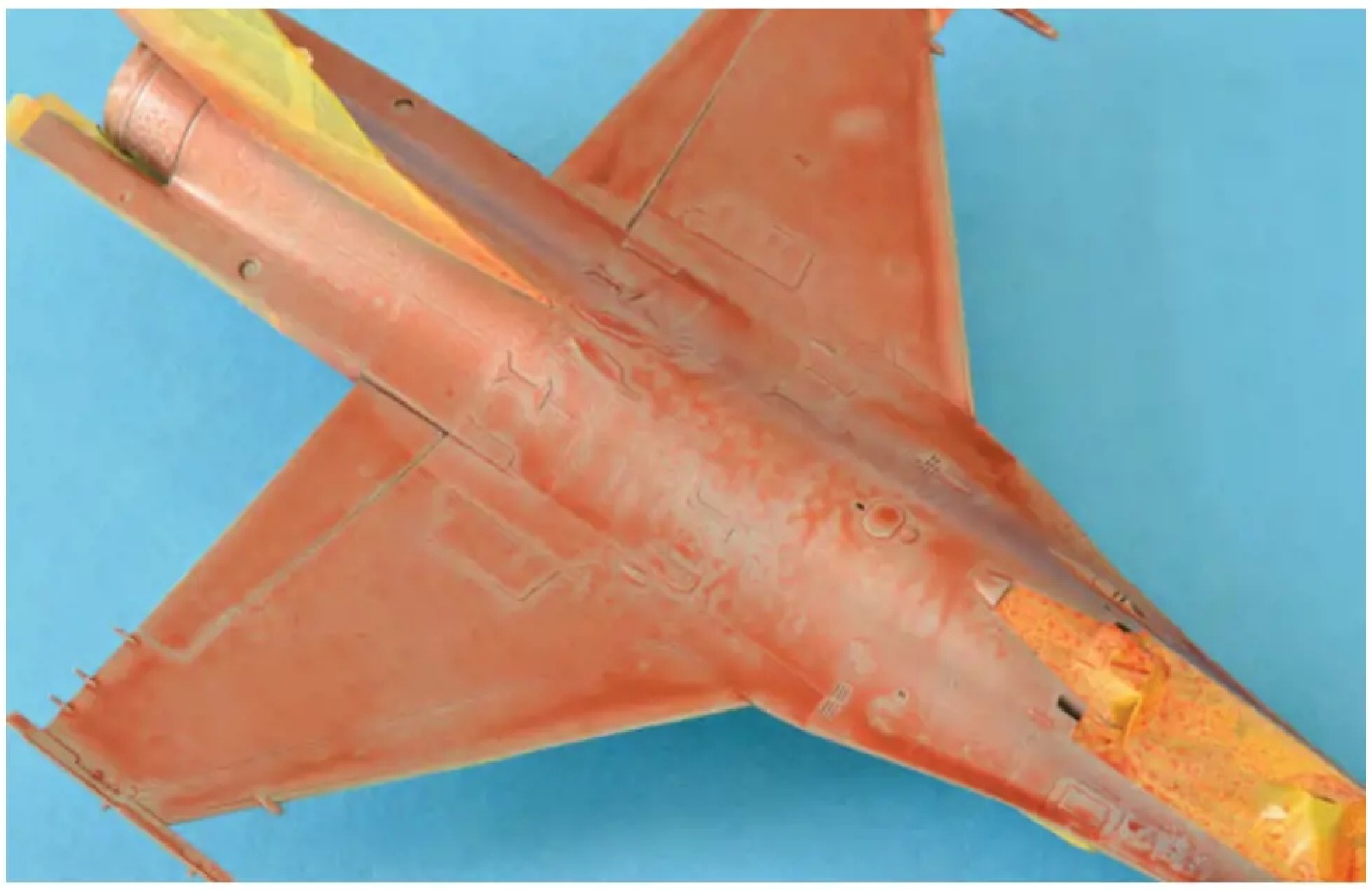


around four decal sheets. Three are for the paint scheme, which covers approximately 80% of the airframe, while a fourth, smaller sheet provides stencils. Syhart's guidance and information on the scheme is excellent, first describing how the scheme's three base colours are to be applied, leaving the airframe in solid, primary colours. Next comes a four-view, panel-by panel placement guide for the individual colour decals, amounting to more than 100 items of varying sizes. Direction concluded with a stencil placement guide, although many of the tiny low-vis markings seem to disappear into the metallic silver and grey tones.

Before the excitement (!) of the decals, though, the airframe needs paint. First to be tackled was the lighter E-006-Silver 1 Metallic Brilliant Silver shade, which is applied to the underside… and here an unusual characteristic of the LPM paint reveals itself. Although acrylic-based and spraying without difficulty through an airbrush with a 0.4mm nozzle (a trial was conducted using a smaller 0.2 nozzle and it didn't spray properly), when the first paint lands on a primed surface the result is a patchy, 'puddled' appearance. After checking with online reviews – and reading the paint labels more carefully – it was realised the manufacturer recommends six or seven thin coats. In the event, just four coats generally proved adequate. The paint dries quite quickly but was left for 24 hours before masking for the second (E-006-Silver 3 Metallic Stratus Grey) tone, with the coverings guided by the paint map; the masks involved careful work around the tail and air intake. With this shade fully cured, further masking of the grey sections could be undertaken on the rear underside, fuselage sides and fin, in readiness for E-006-Red 2 Metallic Sakhir Orange. Again, the patchy initial coat caused a heart flutter, but further thin layers resulted in a sufficiently solid appearance. Along the way, the radome received H317 Gray FS 36231 to match the quoted shade. Provided you can keep your nerve when spraying, the paints are no more problematic than other acrylics, the main concern to be aware of is the potential for paint build up at the masking edge, when any ridges might well show under the decals.



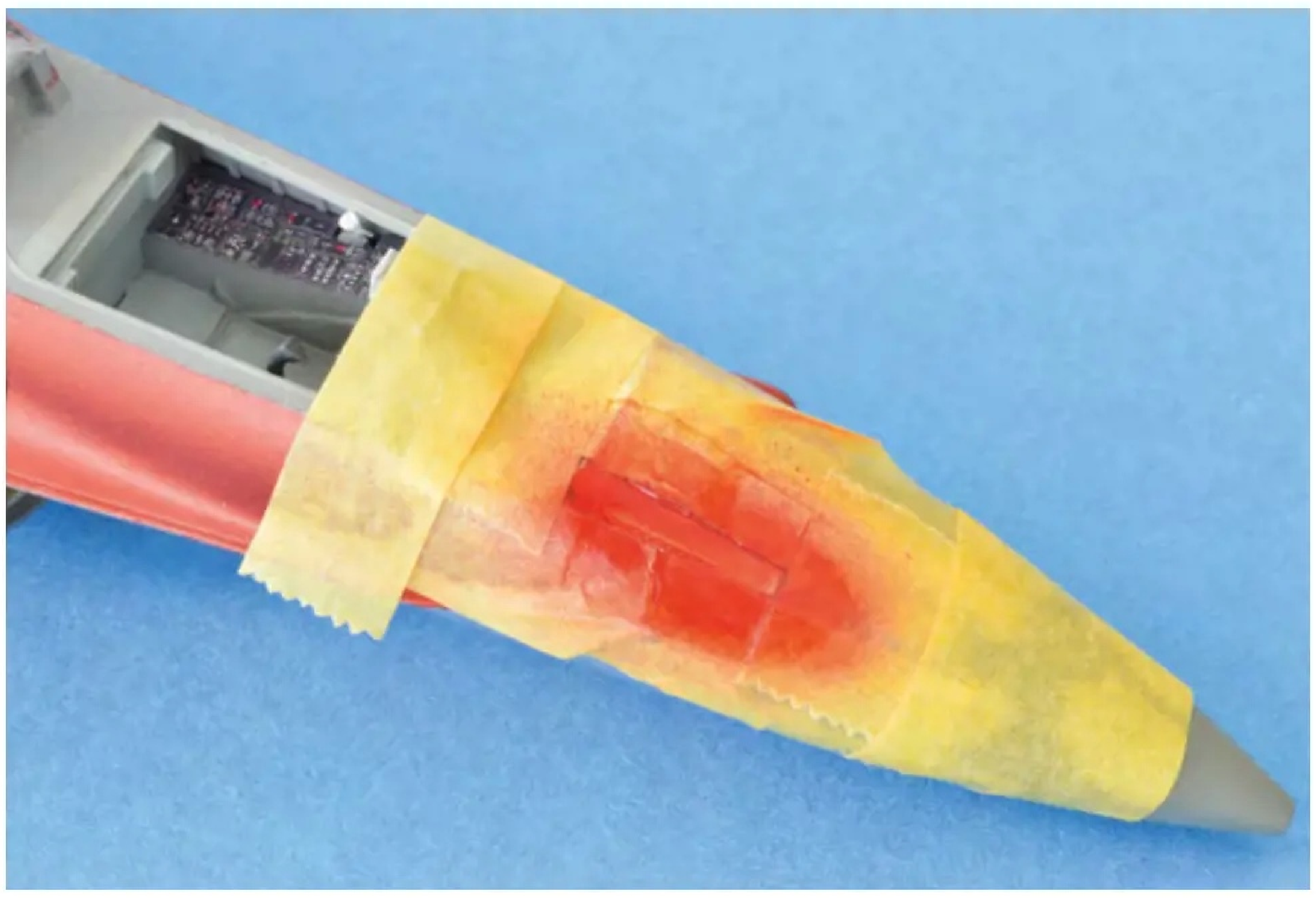
▲ With the Metallic Stratus Grey applied, further masking can be applied, in readiness for the final Sakhir Orange tone.



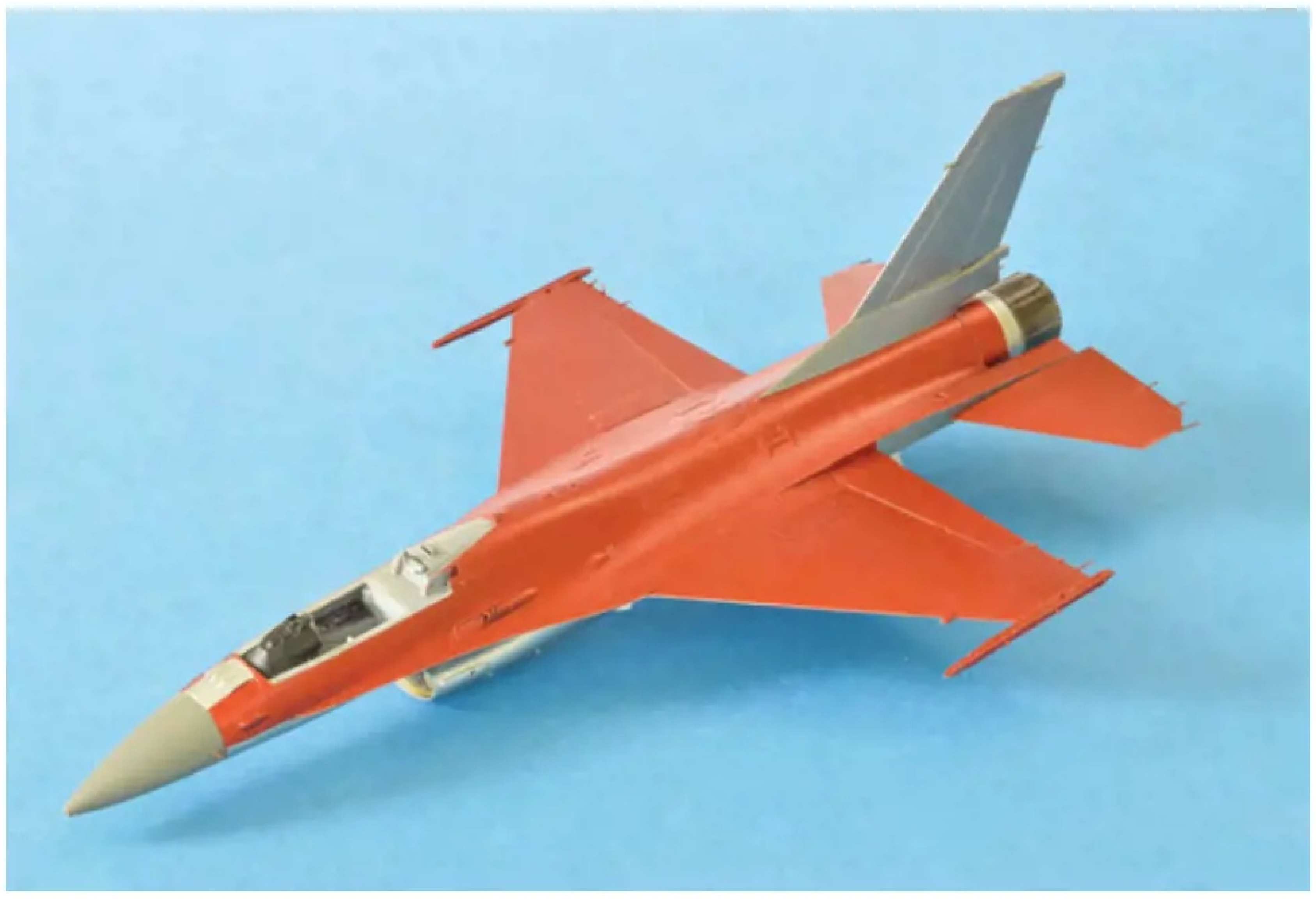
▲ Don't worry! If this is the initial – and possibly heart-stopping result when the first LPM paint layer is airbrushed, rest assured, this patchy appearance will be resolved with further coats.

Myriad markings

Applying the main scheme decals requires another dose of bravery, and the trick appears to be to use lots of plain water in positioning

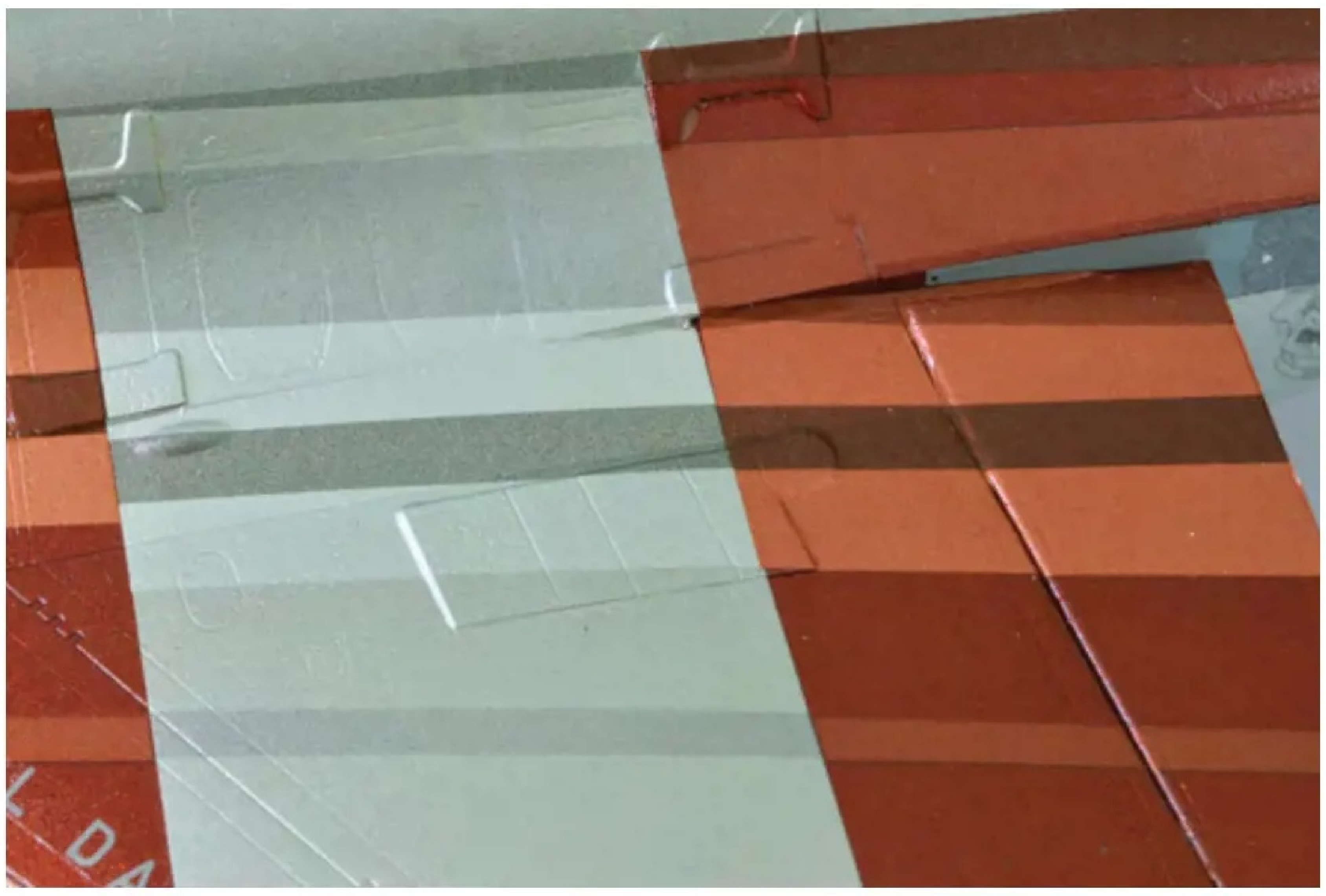


▲ Removing the masking peeled several small areas of the red with it, which required further masking and detailed patch-work repairs on specific panels.



▲ Although online reviews indicated up to seven light coats would be required for a 'solid' appearance, just four were required here… phew!

▲ The underside shows the effect of slightly more complex masking, particularly around the rear fuselage – note the delicate static discharge 'wicks', several of which were damaged at this stage.



▲ Although tricky to photograph, the decals were thin enough to settle neatly into the surface detail with little assistance from solvents. Cleverly, each piece was designed to fit along panel lines.

them, adding Micro Sol around sharp corners and raised details. A clean cloth dipped in hot water was a great help when pressing the decals around raised/sharp detail. The markings are thin, albeit tough and although a couple folded in on themselves, it was possible to tease the folds apart using a clean brush and water. Such was their finesse, they would settle into rivet lines and around the stiffener plates without too much difficulty. Decal design is excellent, as individual panels are sized to correspond exactly with the surface panels, although working methodically and constantly checking alignment is essential to make sure the stripes meet across panel boundaries. The only really tricky placement was in the tunnel between the intake duct and the fuselage proper, and one of these decals had to be cut in two to disentangle it. Once all the main colour panels were in position and dry (having been left at least overnight), the stencils could be added… with the sole issue being Syhart's instructions are quite small, so determining the proper orientation is difficult in several cases, although many have notations alongside the decal ID numbers. The low-vis decals virtually disappeared when placed on both tones of silver and grey.

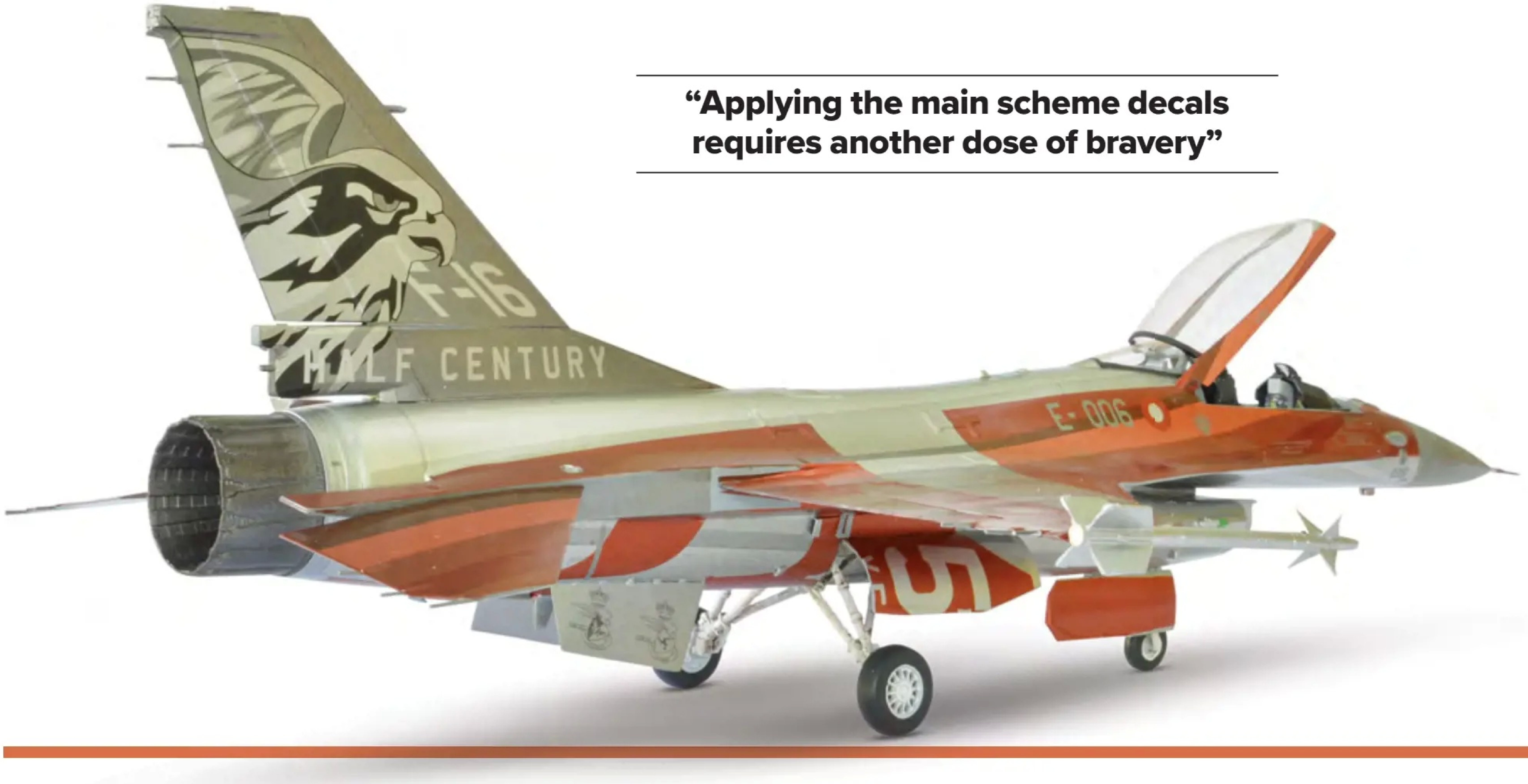
Being a display aircraft, no weathering was undertaken, although the decals were sealed and the finish unified via a thin coat of Halfords' clear gloss lacquer, decanted from the can and sprayed through the airbrush.

Fitting the pre-painted and pre-decaled undercarriage and doors was straightforward, together with other items, such as the arrestor hook and the pitot probe. In its display, E-006 carries two dummy AIM-9M 'smoke-winder' missiles on the wing tips – here, Eduard's resin items were used in preference to the kit parts, which suffered from noticeable ejector-pin release marks. Last, the seat and canopies were tacked into place with white glue.

Final word

There's not much that needs to be said about Kinetic's 1/48 F-16A MLU which hasn't already been covered in other builds. The base kit is pretty good, but aftermarket products are at hand (if needed) for any enhancements… those of most visible benefit are the seat, Eduard's PE cockpit upgrades, plus FabScale's intake and airframe stiffeners. Syhart's decals offer the opportunity to build a truly striking model, and Syvain Hautier is to be congratulated for offering such a well-produced and stunning scheme. AMW

> **"Applying the main scheme decals requires another dose of bravery"**



NEW
MASK, AIRBRUSH AND READY
1/35 Ju87 G2
No decals used!
DDV-MODELS

HIGH PRECISION AIRBRUSH PAINT MASKS

1ManArmy brings innovating high definition airbrush paint masks for scale models in 1/18, 1/24, 1/32, 1/35 and 1/48 scale.

The masks allow to airbrush numbers, roundels and markings, but also the smallest instruction stencils, hereby offering an alternative for the decal carrier film and allowing a true 'painted-on' and natural look. You can obtain an instant result, without the need for gloss coats, setting or softening solutions, trimming or cleaning and always with an amazing precision. A dry clean surface is all you need.

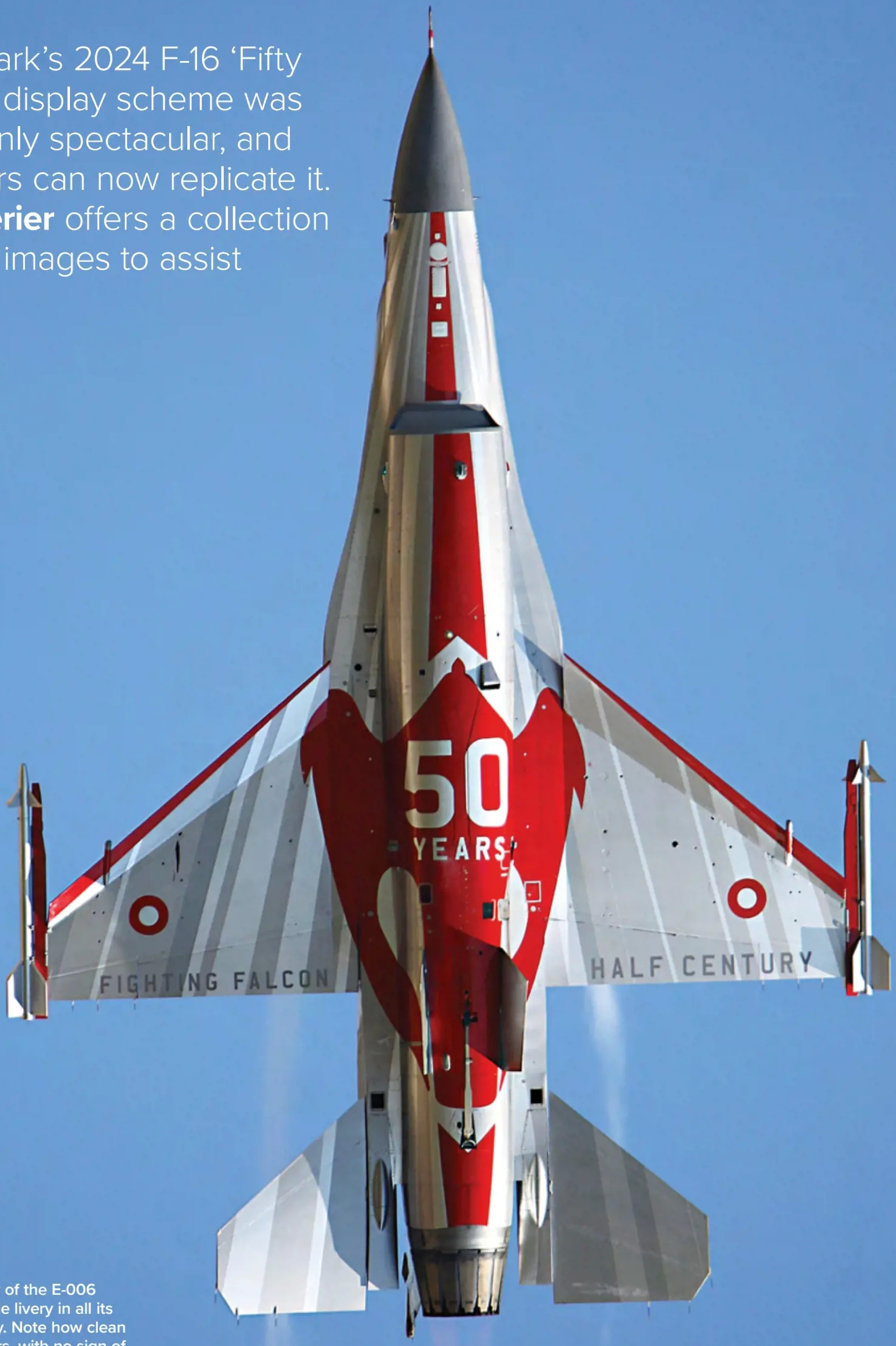
Every set contains markings, roundels, numbers, balkenkreuz, and the small maintenance stencils. Very clear placement instructions + a User Manual are provided. As well as some spares, allowing you to practice.

1 MAN ARMY

WWW.1MANARMY.BE

FIFTY NOT OUT

Denmark's 2024 F-16 'Fifty Years' display scheme was certainly spectacular, and modellers can now replicate it. **Mike Verier** offers a collection of images to assist

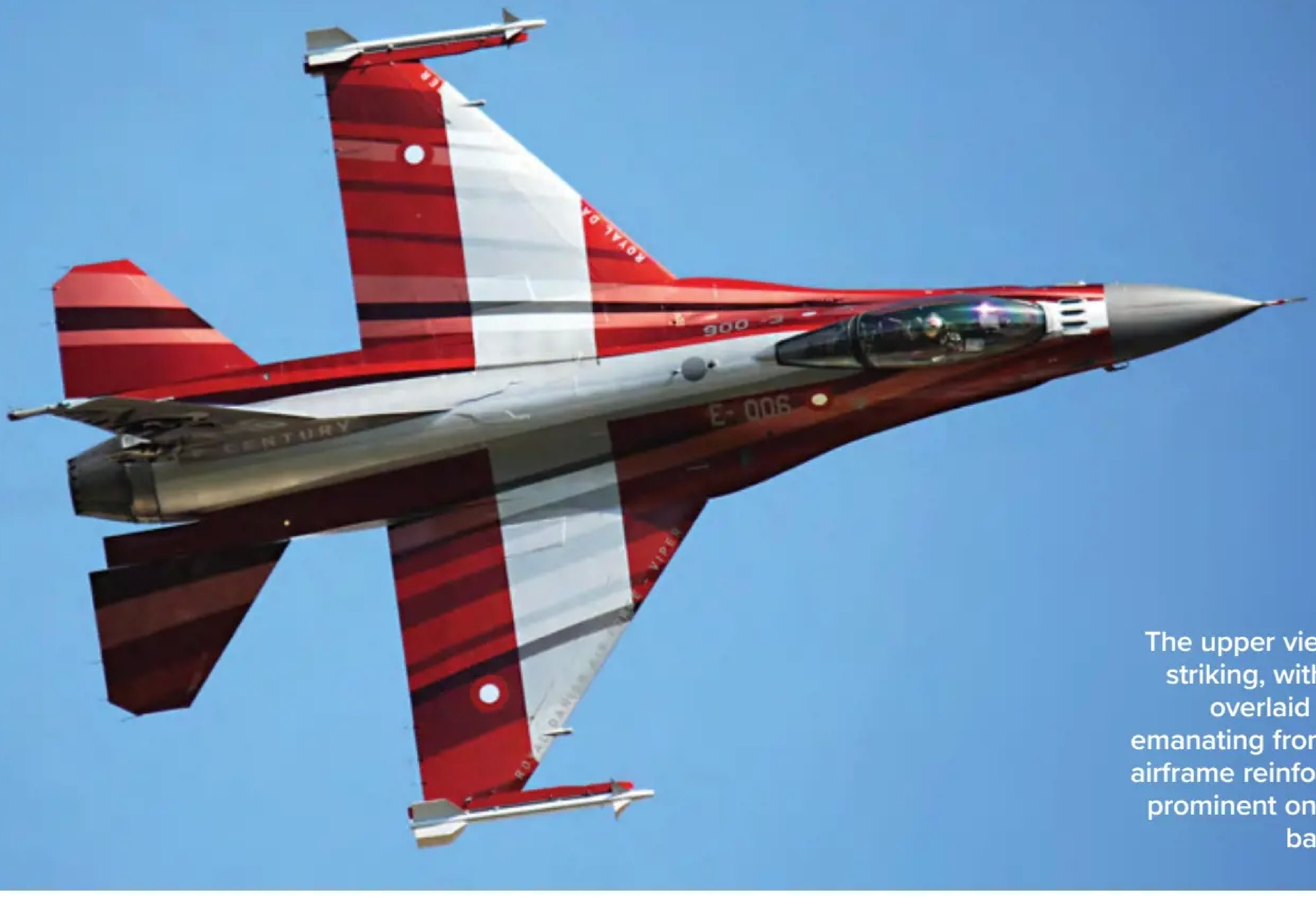


This gorgeous view of the E-006 shows the underside livery in all its multi-coloured glory. Note how clean the airframe appears, with no sign of the streaks or stains that usually mark the rear fuselage on F-16s.
(All photos Mike Verier)

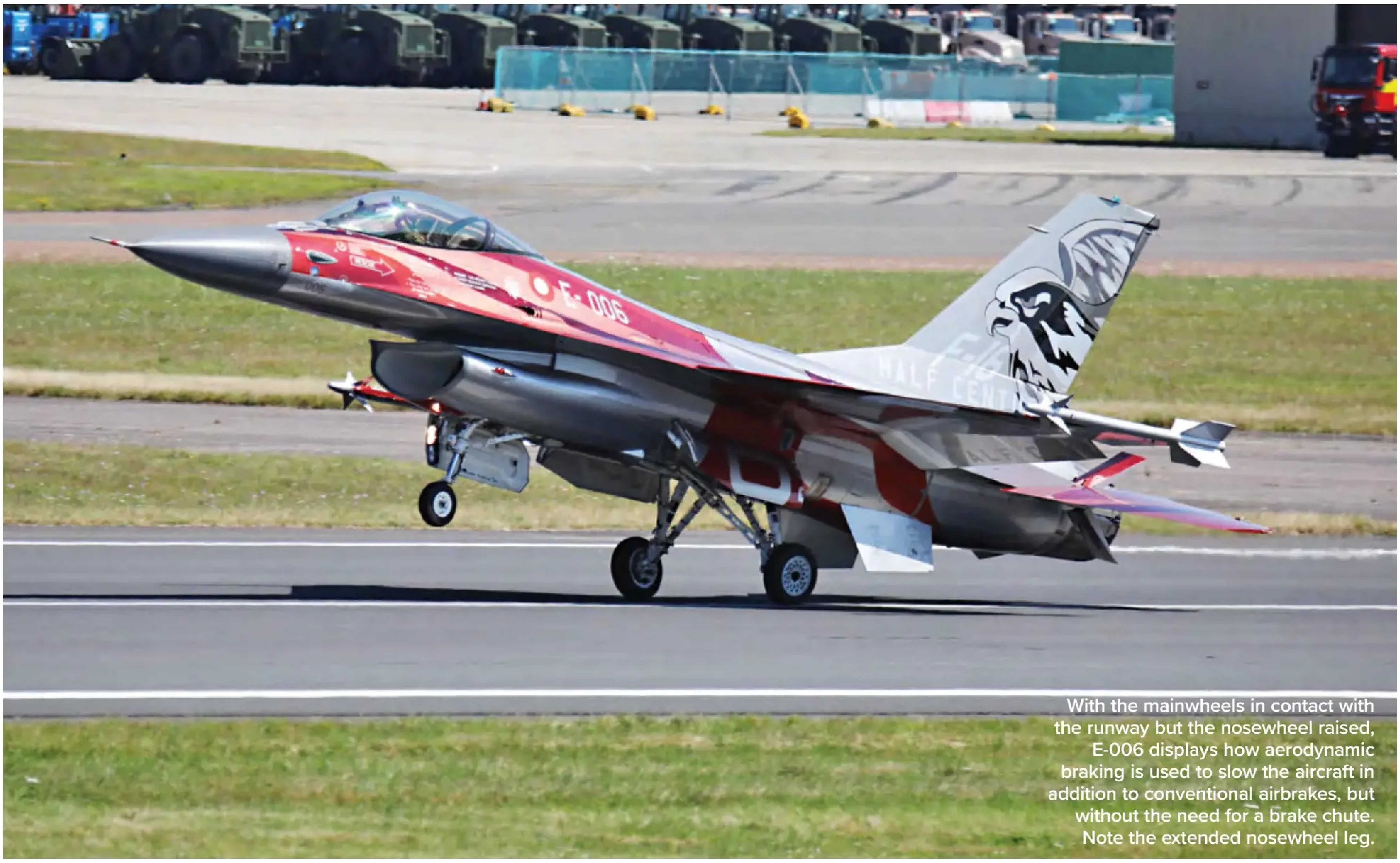
With the aircraft on the verge of being replaced by the F-35, it is a good time to showcase the still-ubiquitous F-16 Fighting Falcon. Danish solo display aircraft have carried several dramatic national flag-based schemes over the years, and the design celebrating the type's 50th anniversary did not disappoint.

The Danish F-16AM MLU (mid-life update) airframes are capable aircraft and many are destined for transfer to Ukraine. The display machine, E-006 (870006) was at the time operated by Eskadrille 727, based at Skrydstrup. During the 2024 RIAT show, red-liveried E-006 was backed by a 'grey' spare aircraft that flew several displays, along with a two-seat F-16BM in the static park.

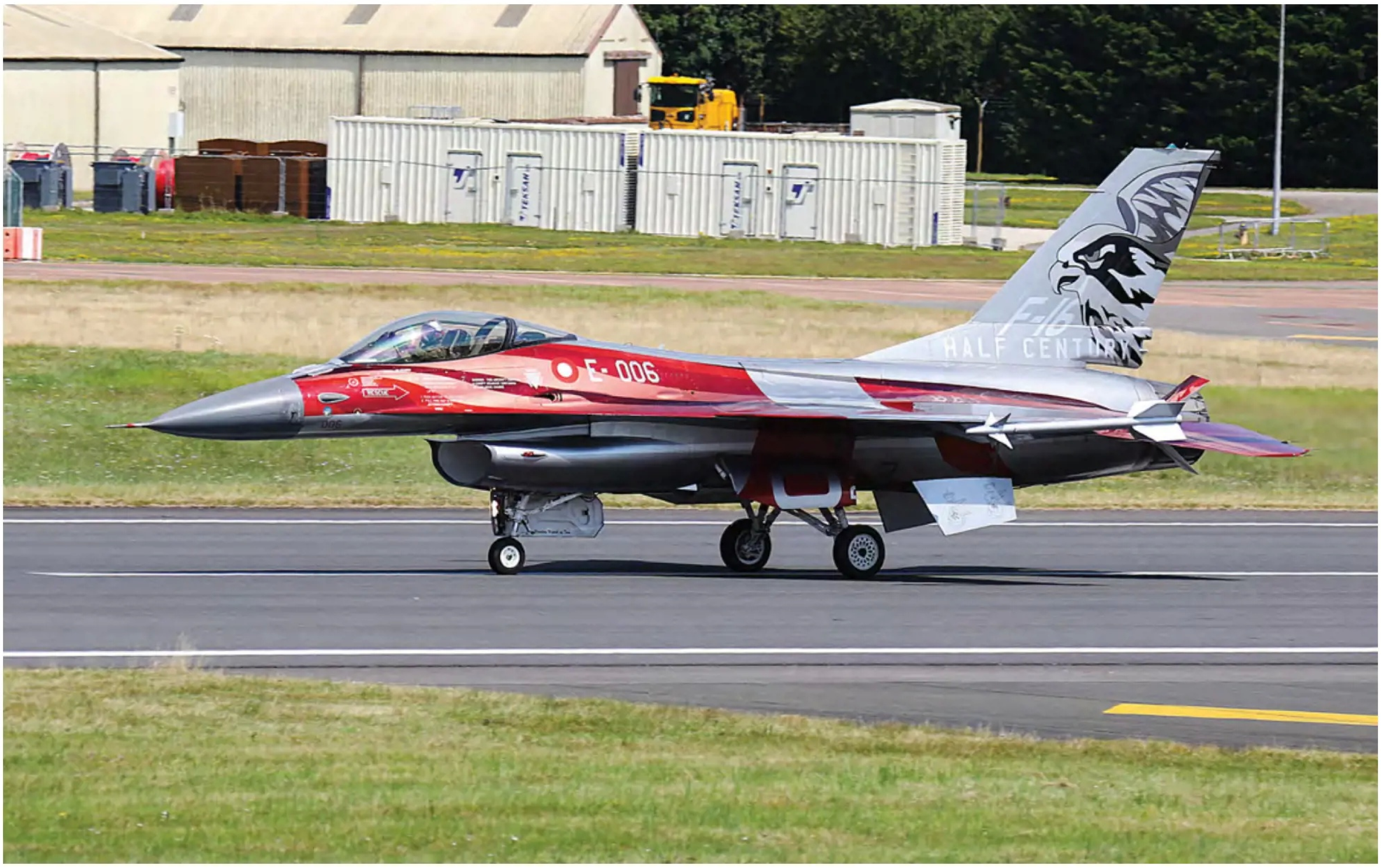
As it transpired, technical issues kept the 'red bird' on the ground and reserve aircraft E-190 (780190) flew displays on two days. Worthy of note on this airframe is the finish, which seems to use the more recent 'Have Glass' stealth paints. In differing lights, the aircraft appears as the standard two greys, yet from other aspects – especially the rear quarter – it can be seen that the finish takes on a uniform metallic appearance. The 2023 scheme (see the final two photos) was exceptionally eyecatching, too. AMW

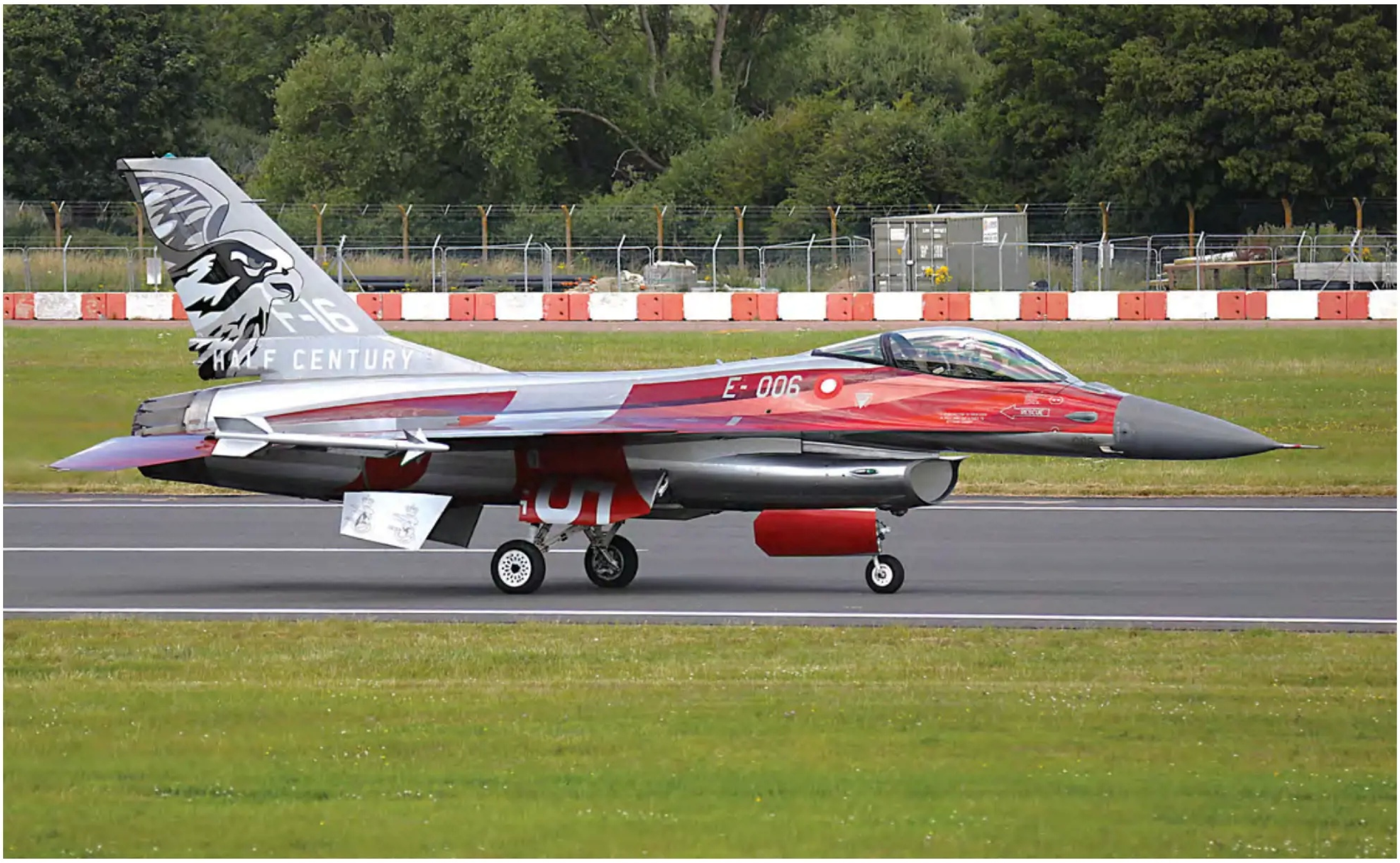


The upper view of E-006 is just as striking, with the Danish insignia overlaid by the speed stripes emanating from the nose area. The airframe reinforcing strips are quite prominent on the central fuselage barrel and inner wings.



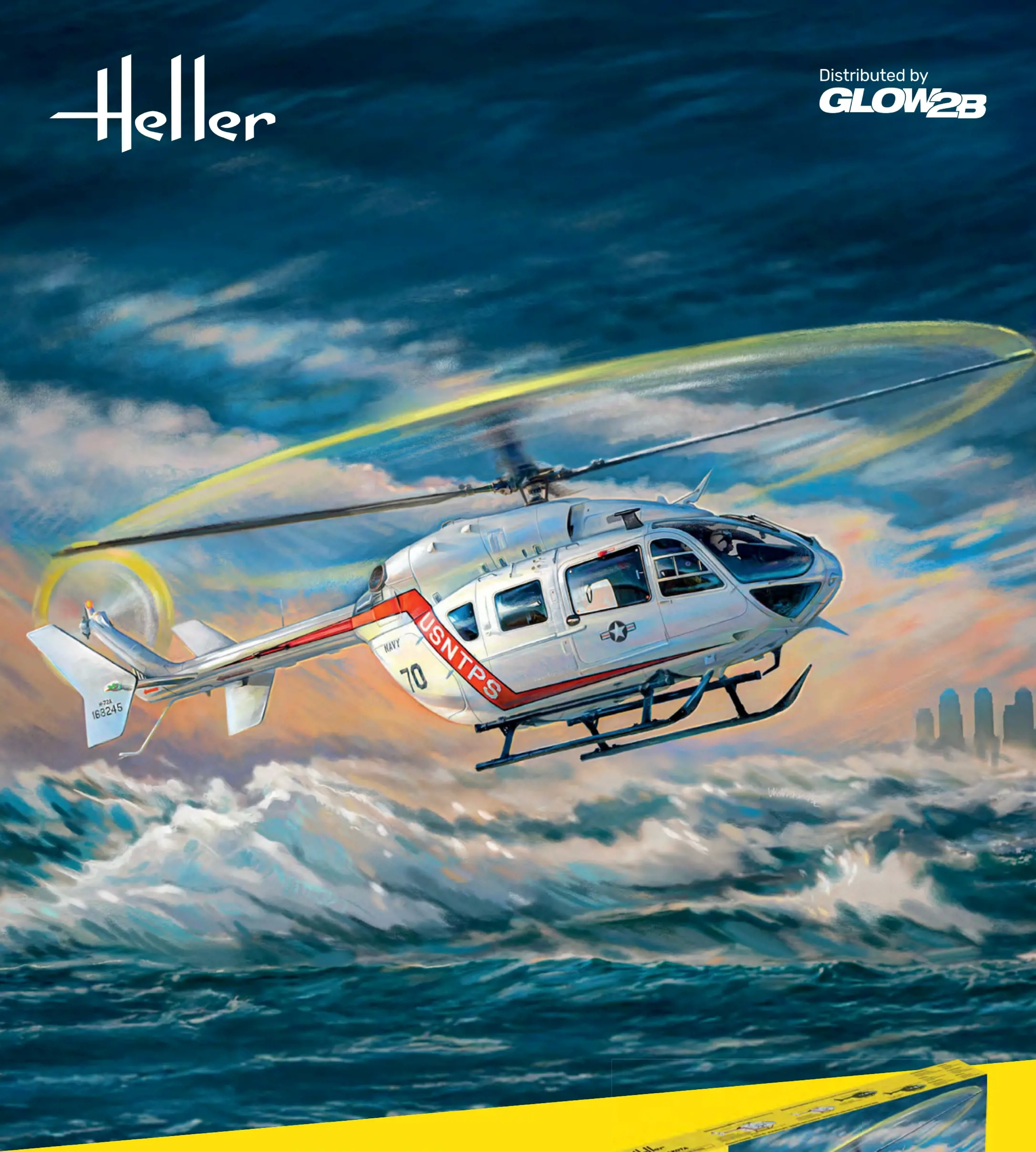
With the mainwheels in contact with the runway but the nosewheel raised, E-006 displays how aerodynamic braking is used to slow the aircraft in addition to conventional airbrakes, but without the need for a brake chute. Note the extended nosewheel leg.





▲ These two side views highlight the asymmetric nature of the colour scheme on the fuselage, plus different squadron crests on the ventral fins, although the legends on both sides of the vertical stabiliser are the same (in previous years, these were different).

Distributed by GLOW2B


USNTPS
NAVY
70
H-72A
168245

UH-72A LAKOTA

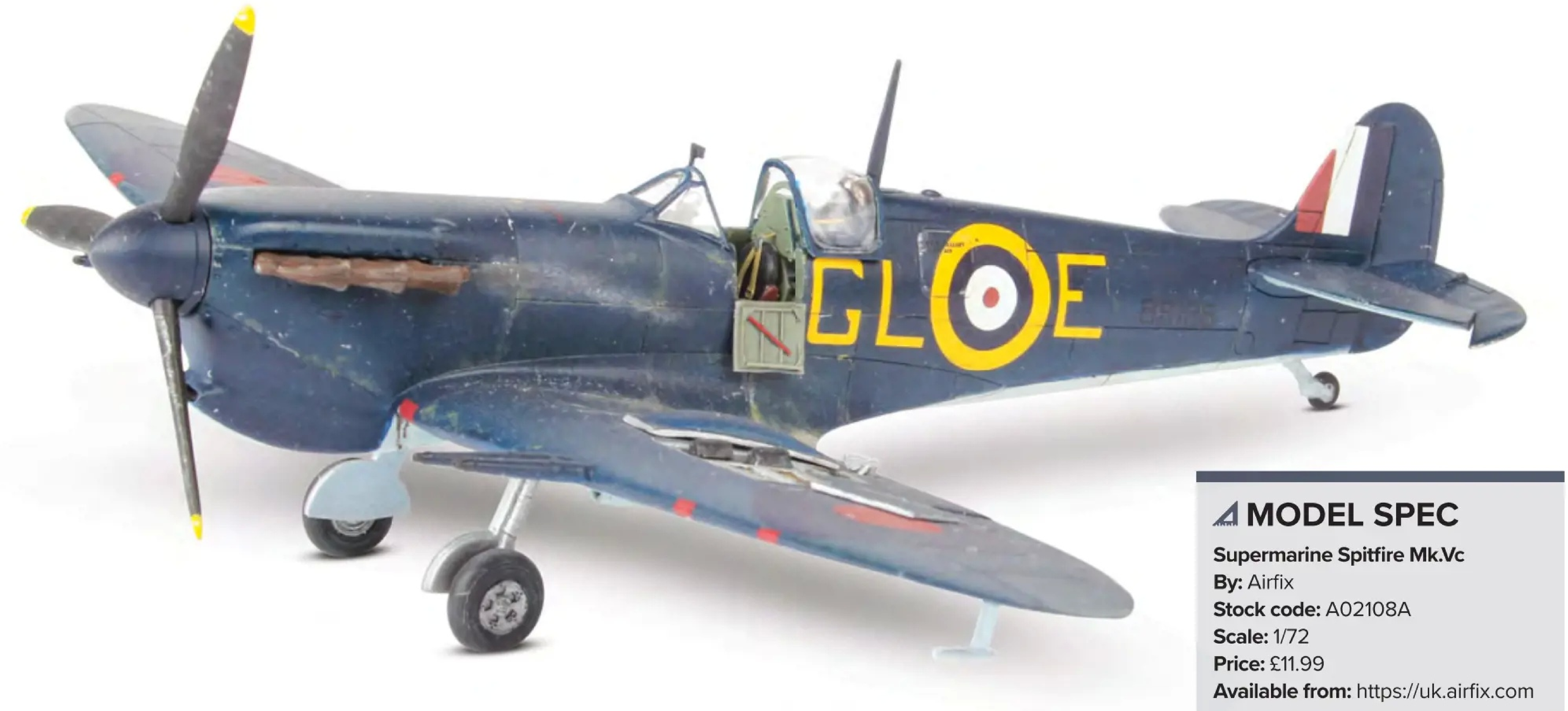
REF: 80379

More about this product

Scale: 1/72	110 Pieces
181 x 153 mm	
8 x Decorations provided	

Heller
UH-72A LAKOTA
Scale: 1/72
110 Pieces
181 x 153 mm
8 x Decorations provided
www.heller.fr

www.heller.fr info@heller.fr instagram.com/heller.fr facebook.com/heller.fr #legendarymodels



MODEL SPEC

Supermarine Spitfire Mk.Vc
By: Airfix
Stock code: A02108A
Scale: 1/72
Price: £11.99
Available from: https://uk.airfix.com

AIRFIX
1:72 SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE Mk.Vc

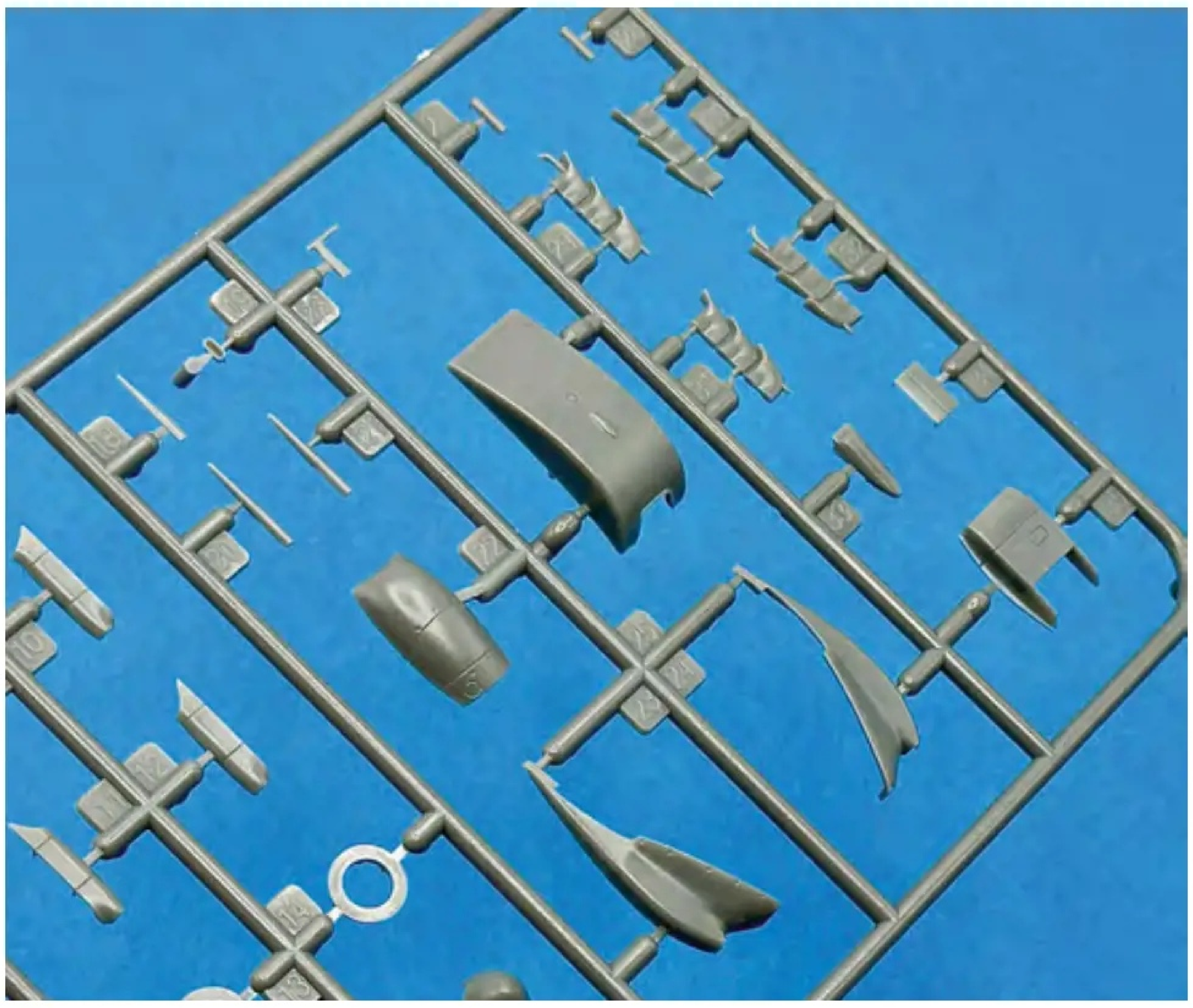
MALTA Defender

Jack Homewood builds Airfix's 1/72 Spitfire Mk.Vc with a host of aftermarket extras to represent an aircraft from an epic period of aerial warfare.

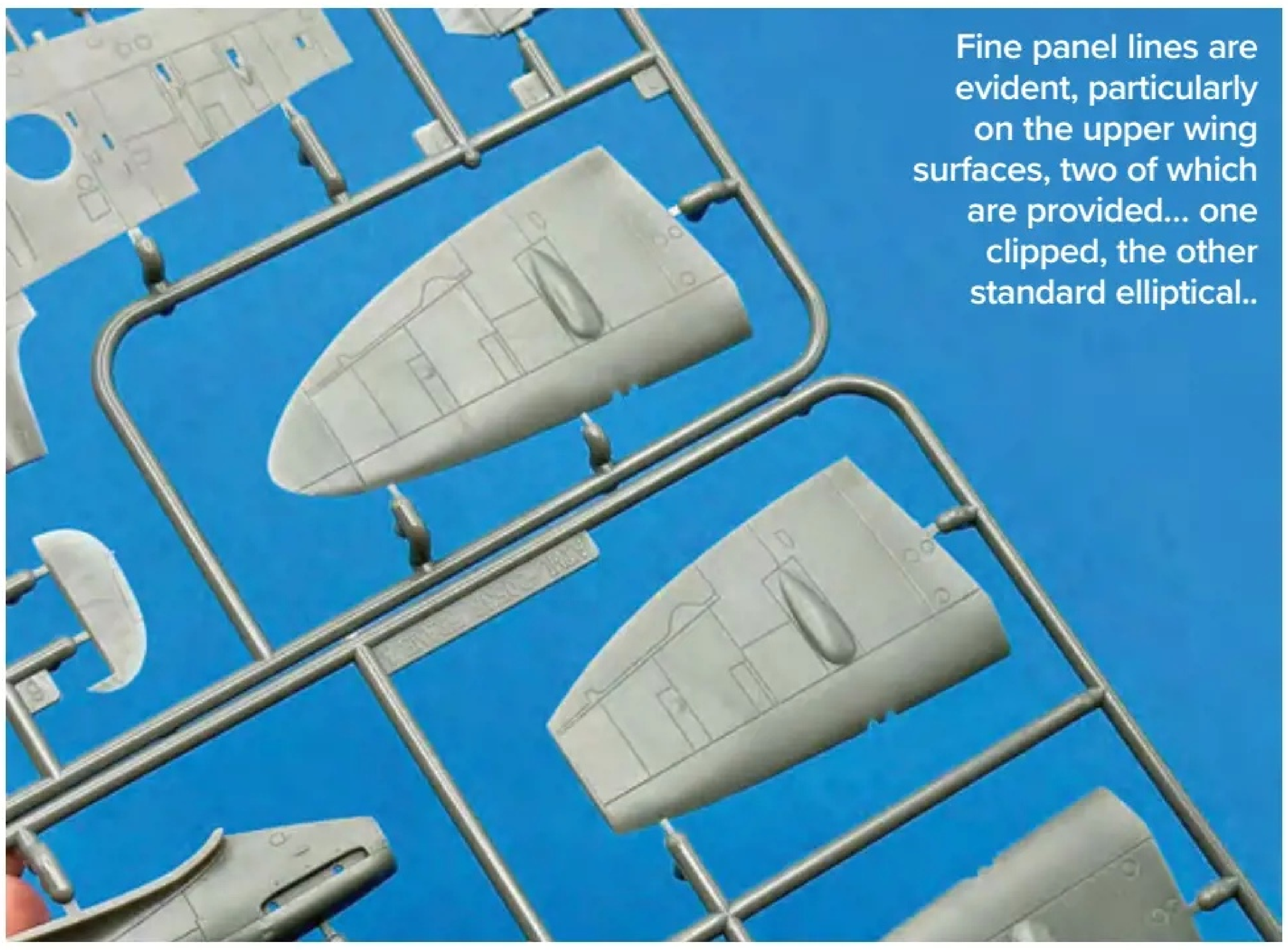
World War Two's battle for Malta needs little introduction. The island's inhabitants and Allied personnel endured three years of almost constant aerial bombardment, food and fuel shortages, and the threat of German invasion. Of the many acts in the Siege of Malta, from daring supply runs across the Mediterranean, the resilience of the population, and the efforts of groundcrew and gunners, the air battle has long been considered pivotal in securing the island's safety. From the early days of 'Hope, Faith and Charity' – the three (actually four) Gloster Sea Gladiators that engaged Italian Bombers in 1940 – to the efforts of the Hurricane squadrons that tackled far superior Luftwaffe numbers in 1941, and the arrival of Spitfire Mk.Vs in 1942; Malta was at the centre of a see-saw on which fortunes in the North African campaign seemed to balance. It seemed only right when asked to build this kit, to portray an example from such an important arena.

Out the box

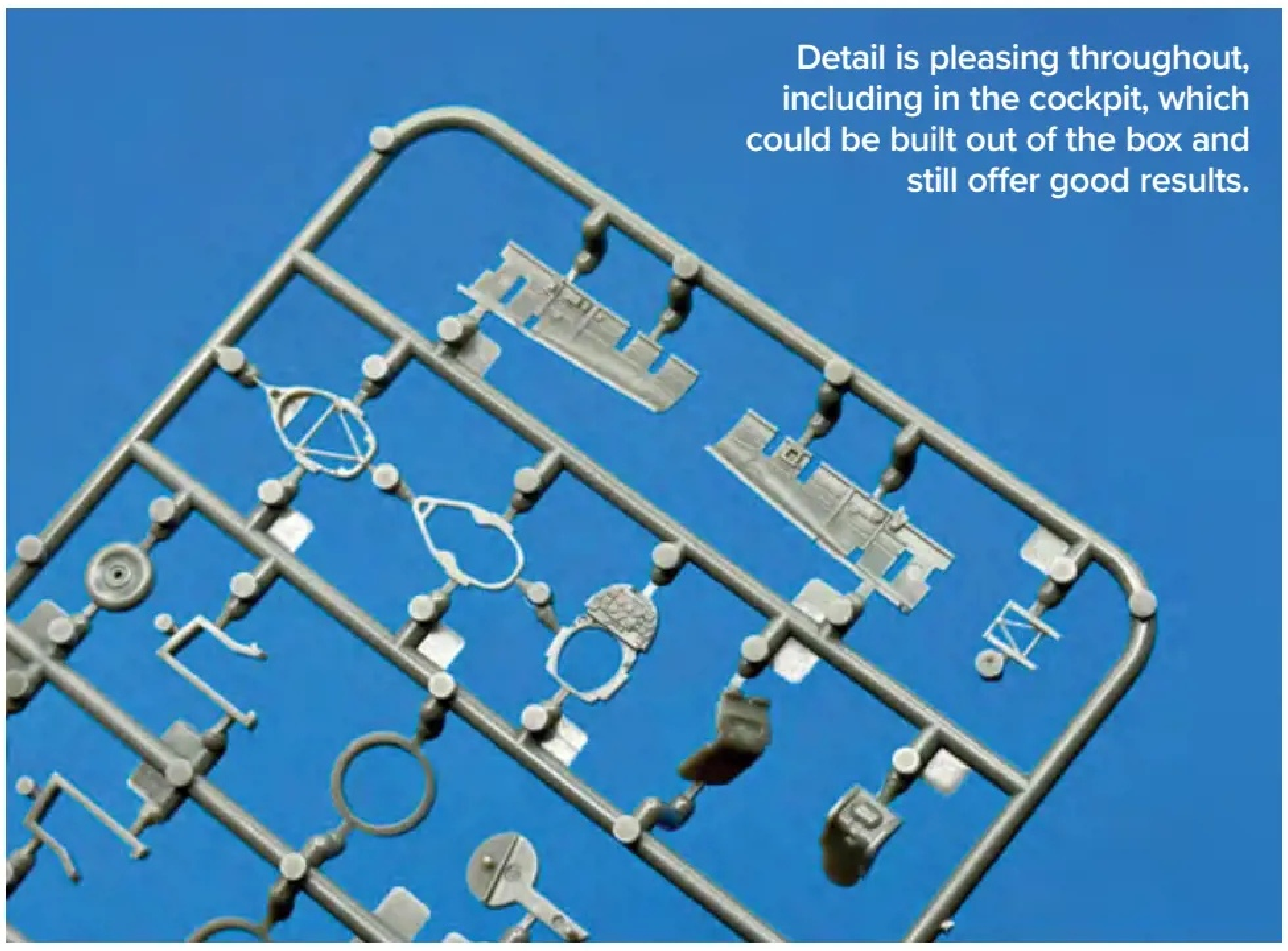
Airfix's model originally debuted in 2020 but it now comes in the newer blue-grey plastic. Comprising 73 parts including five transparencies, it features fine panel lines, a worthy replication of the 'universal' C wing and pleasing cockpit detail. Also provided are options for de Havilland and Rotol three-bladed propellers, a 90-gal slipper tank, two upper wing options for clipped or elliptical tips and an open/closed canopy. There are markings for two airframes on the kit decal sheet… an overall bare-



▲ Included in the box is a 90 gal slipper tank and Vokes tropical filter… useful for modelling a Malta-based airframe.

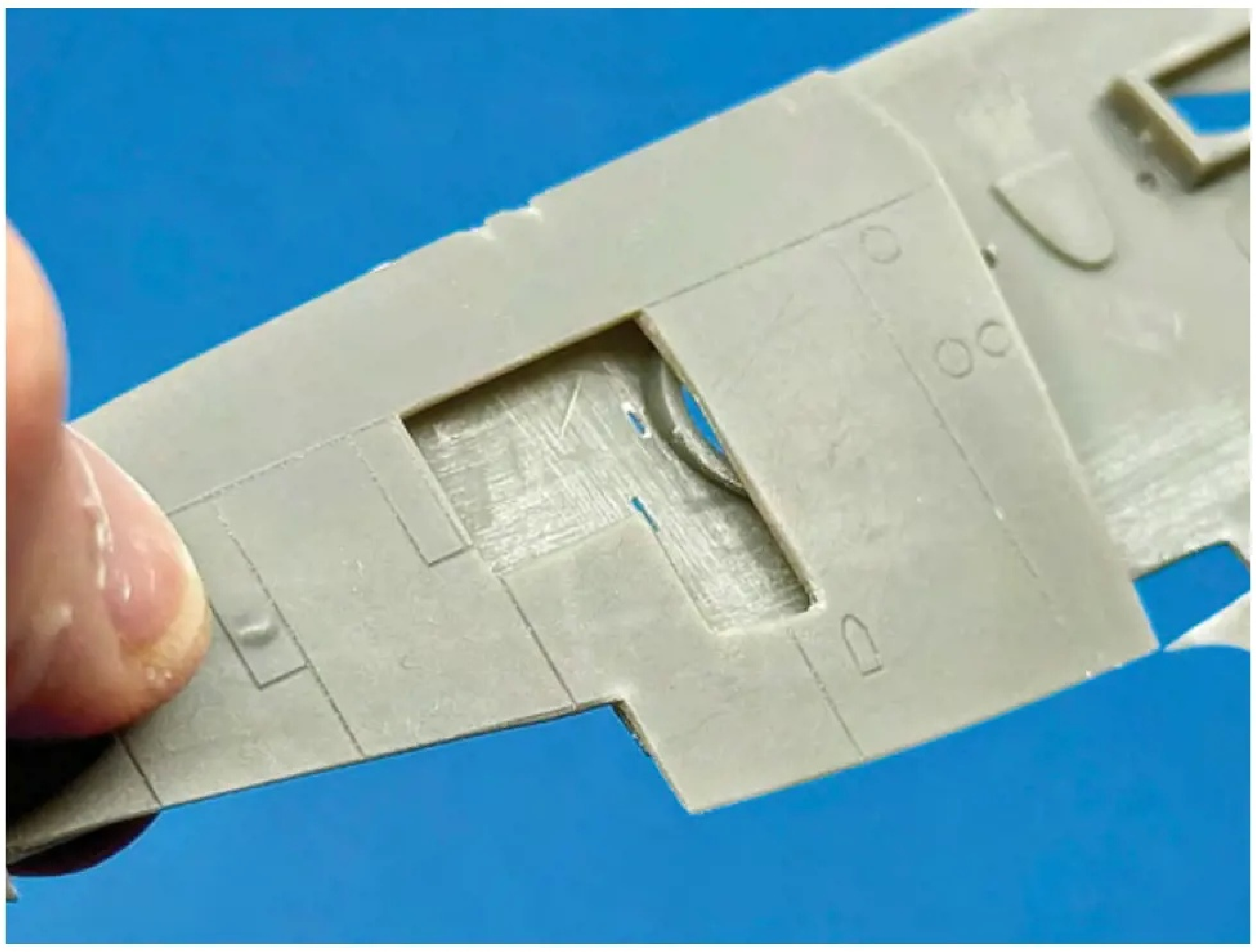


Fine panel lines are evident, particularly on the upper wing surfaces, two of which are provided... one clipped, the other standard elliptical..



Detail is pleasing throughout, including in the cockpit, which could be built out of the box and still offer good results.

OSPREY AIRCRAFT OF THE ACES
Malta Spitfire Aces
eduard BRASSIN
AIRFIX
1:72 SUPERMARINE
HIGH QUALITY CAST PRODUCT
Peewit
Spitfire Mk.Vc



▲ Wing cannon bays needed to be cut out and thinned. Here, the undercarriage bay infringement can be seen, which needed removing before the gun bays could be added.

◀ The editor had kindly provided a number of aftermarket sets to complement this kit, including sets from CMK and a masking bundle from Peewit.

metal Royal Australian Air Force machine and an RAF clipped-wing Spitfire in standard Day Fighter camouflage.

However, this project would gain extra interest via the aftermarket. Three of CMK's resin sets covering the cockpit, flight controls and wing gun bays were employed for the build. The sets improve on the kit parts and are a welcome addition for modellers seeking greater refinement. However, CMK's packaging is somewhat problematic once opened, leaving gaps which resulted in some parts going missing between the editor's initial review and it landing on the workbench. Also included was a canopy and wheel masking set from Peewit, Eduard resin wheels, and markings for a Malta 'Spit' courtesy of Euro Decal's Spitfires over Malta sheet.

Initial surgery

It was decided to tackle the major adaptations to accommodate the CMK resin parts prior to beginning any of the main construction. Cannon/gun bay panels were chain-drilled with a 0.1mm bit. Then, a saw and scalpel were used hole-to-hole to cut out the opening, and edges were neatened with a sanding stick and scalpel. A razor saw then removed the ailerons and flaps. Note, though, that in addition to these cuts, the upper and lower wing plastic needed considerable thinning to accommodate the resin gun bay and new flaps. This was achieved by running a Dremel tool around the areas shown on CMK's instructions. The technique does require a certain amount of patience and test fitting; you don't want to get impatient here and sand through the wing completely. Final tweaks to the fit were achieved with a sanding stick.

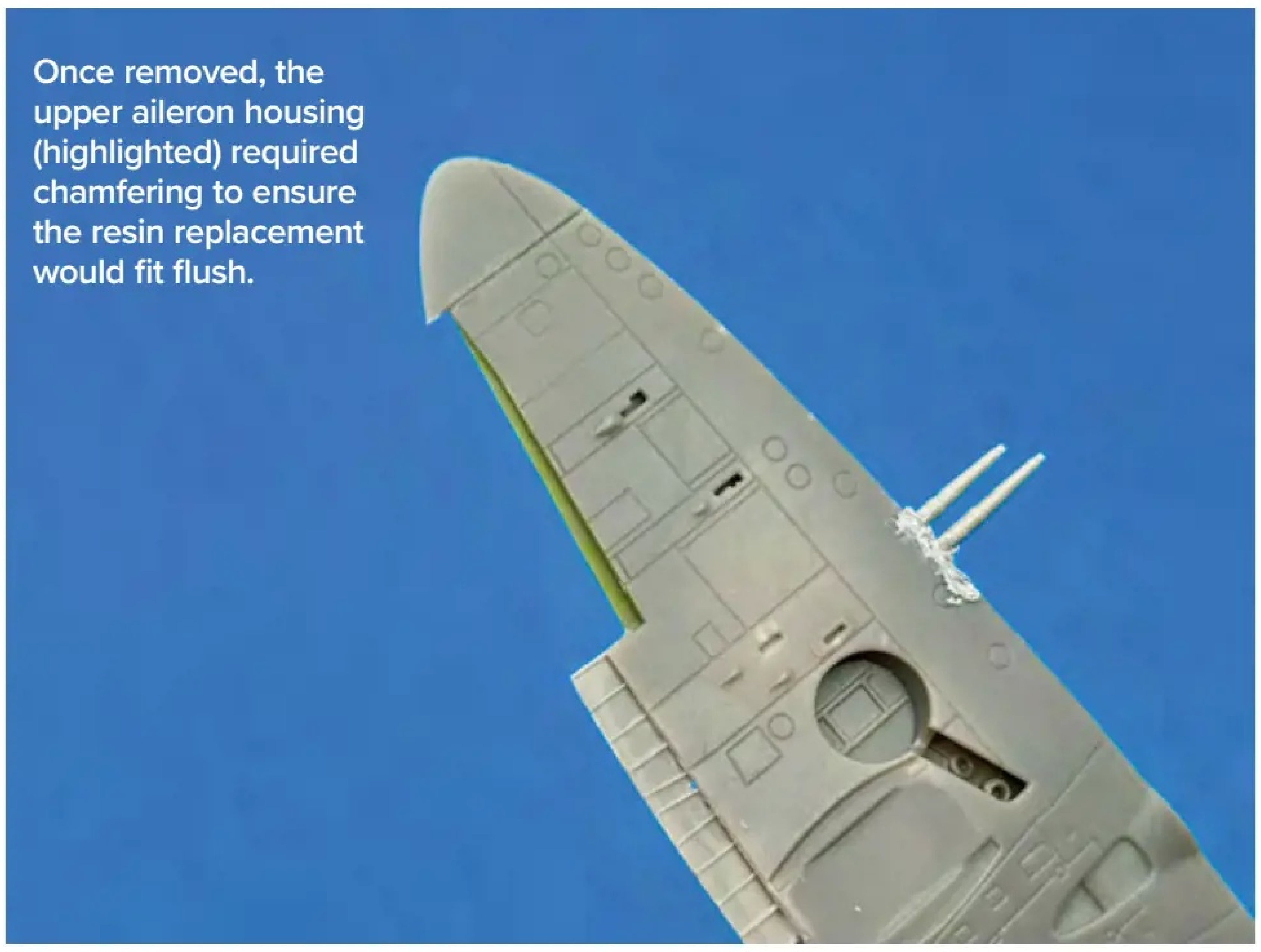
Once happy that the mating was acceptable, the dual cannon bays and flap fairings were glued into position on the upper wing with cyanoacrylate; any gaps were corrected with filler. The lower wing was then constructed, including the undercarriage bays. Only when joining the upper and lower wing halves was it realised that the wheel wells interfered slightly with the fit of the cannon bays. CMK's instructions, while not obvious, showed a shaded section of the undercarriage bay that must also be removed. This was achieved carefully with a scalpel but, after struggling somewhat with the fit and avoiding going all the way through the plastic, it was deemed unavoidable. Fortunately, it was not noticeable as it was tucked away and a dash of filler removed any trace of damage. The wings were then joined without issue, after which the resin cannon barrels and ailerons were attached.

▶

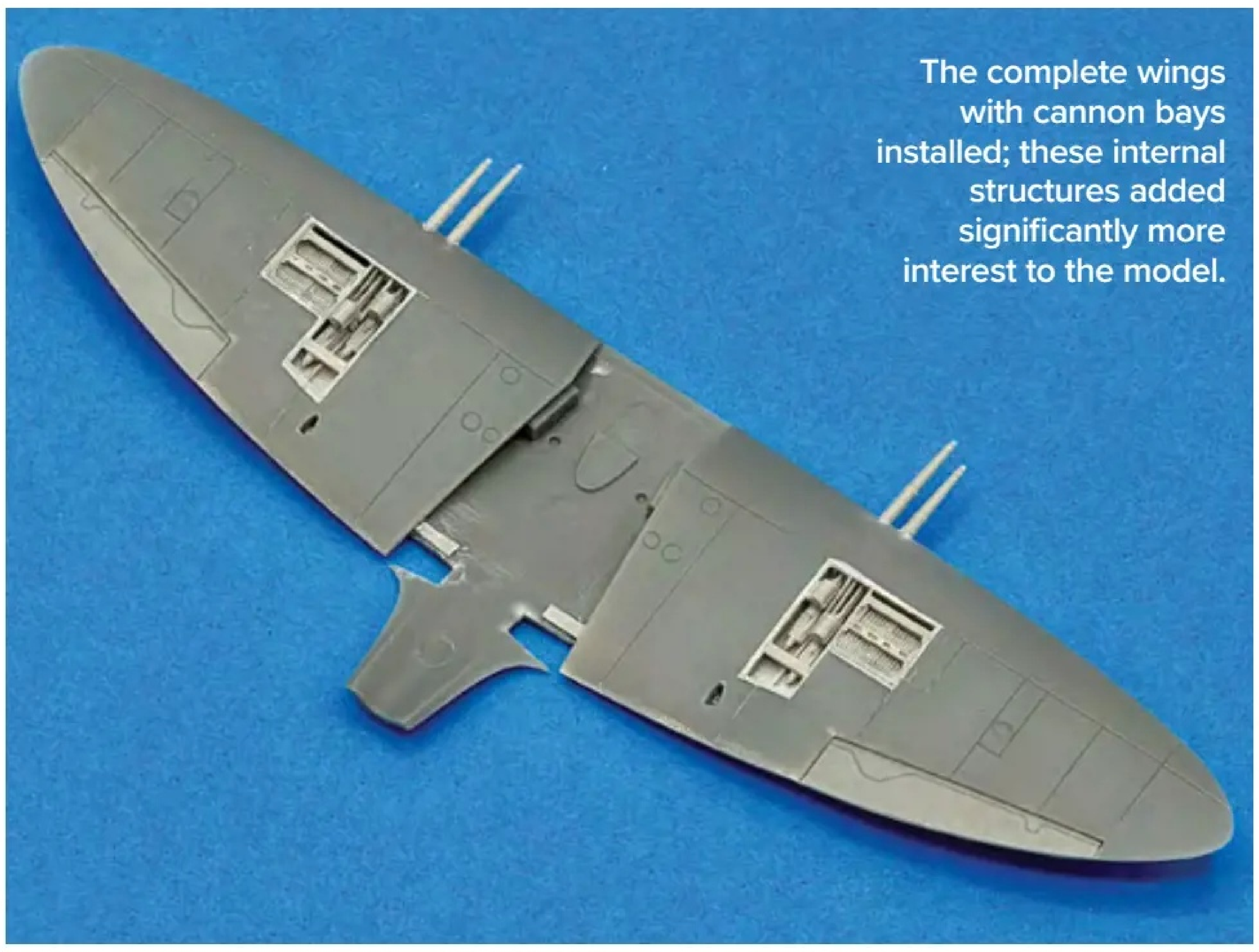
> **"Comprising 73 parts, including five clear, the kit features fine panel lines"**

Body work

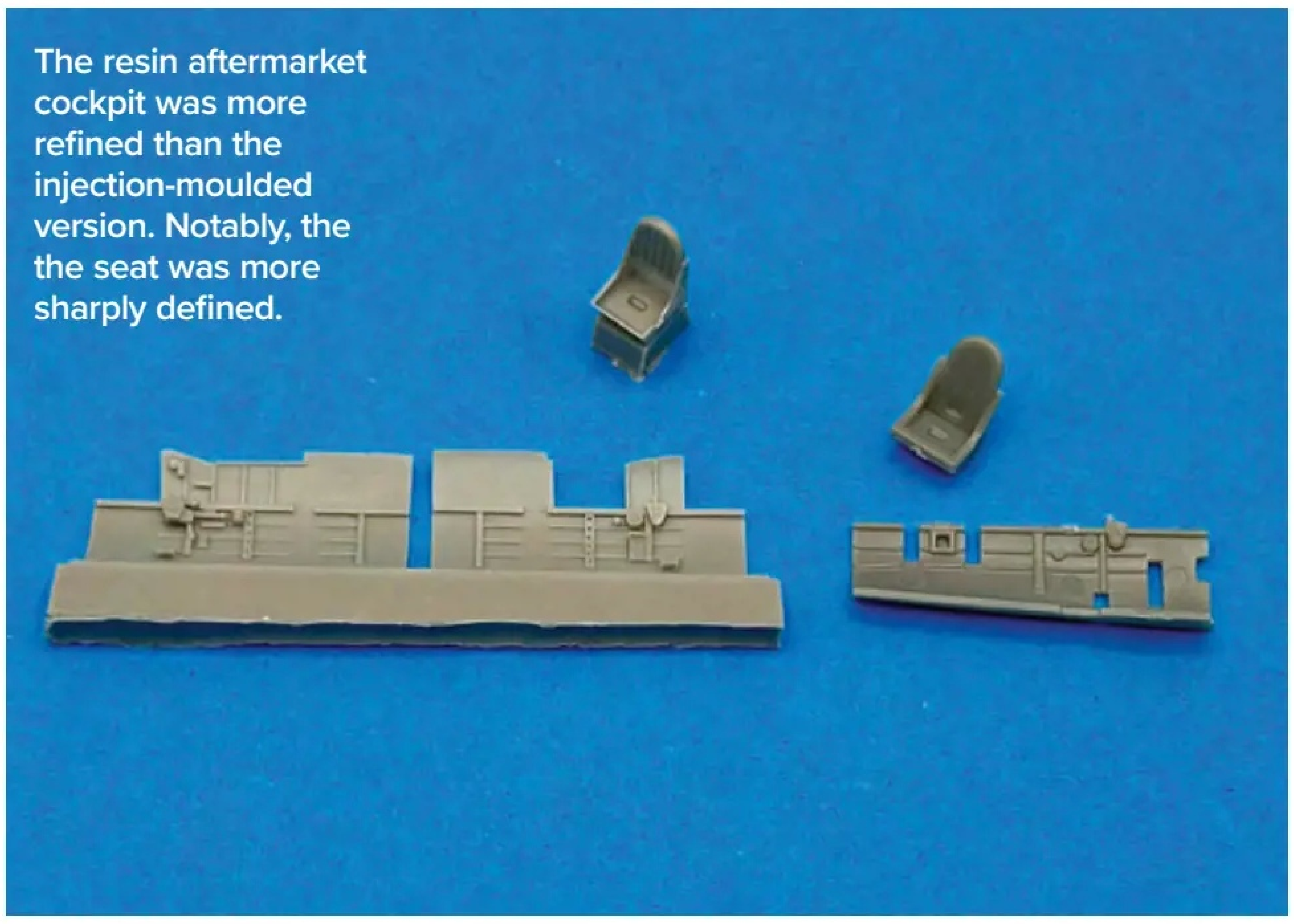
Slight reworking of the fuselage halves was required; this involved removing the moulded cockpit detail – and opening the access door – to accommodate CMK's parts. This set comprised new sidewalls, a seat, floor, rudder pedals, instrument panel, oxygen bottles and seatbelts. Unfortunately, as mentioned earlier, some parts had gone missing from the packaging including the resin instrument panel and control column. Oddly, some items provided by Airfix are not included in CMK's set, such as the rearmost fuselage former and starboard oxygen tank. Thankfully, the kit components are more than adequate to mitigate this and were adapted to fit the resin set. CMK calls for the cockpit to be assembled as an entire 'tub', which could then be joined to one of the fuselage halves. Predicting fit issues, it was decided that both sidewalls would be added to their respective fuselage halves and the cockpit built around. Once positioned, the cockpit halves and sub-assemblies were painted in Hataka A025 Interior Green before the section behind the seat was airbrushed with Vallejo 71.062 Aluminium. The seat, being of the standard 'plastic' (not Bakelite) type, received a mix of 71.269 Red, 71.057 Black and A009 Dark Earth in a 5:2:3



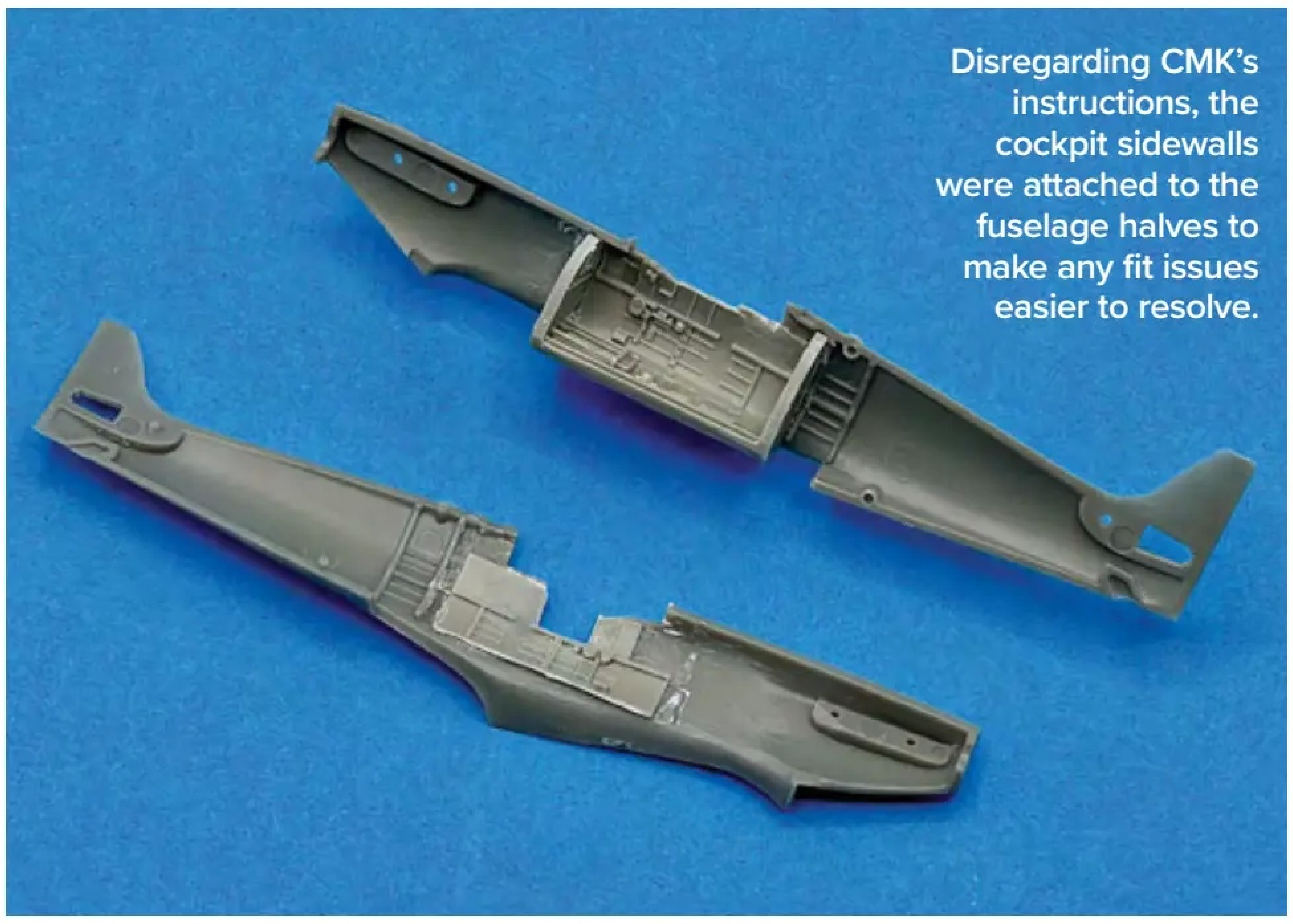
Once removed, the upper aileron housing (highlighted) required chamfering to ensure the resin replacement would fit flush.



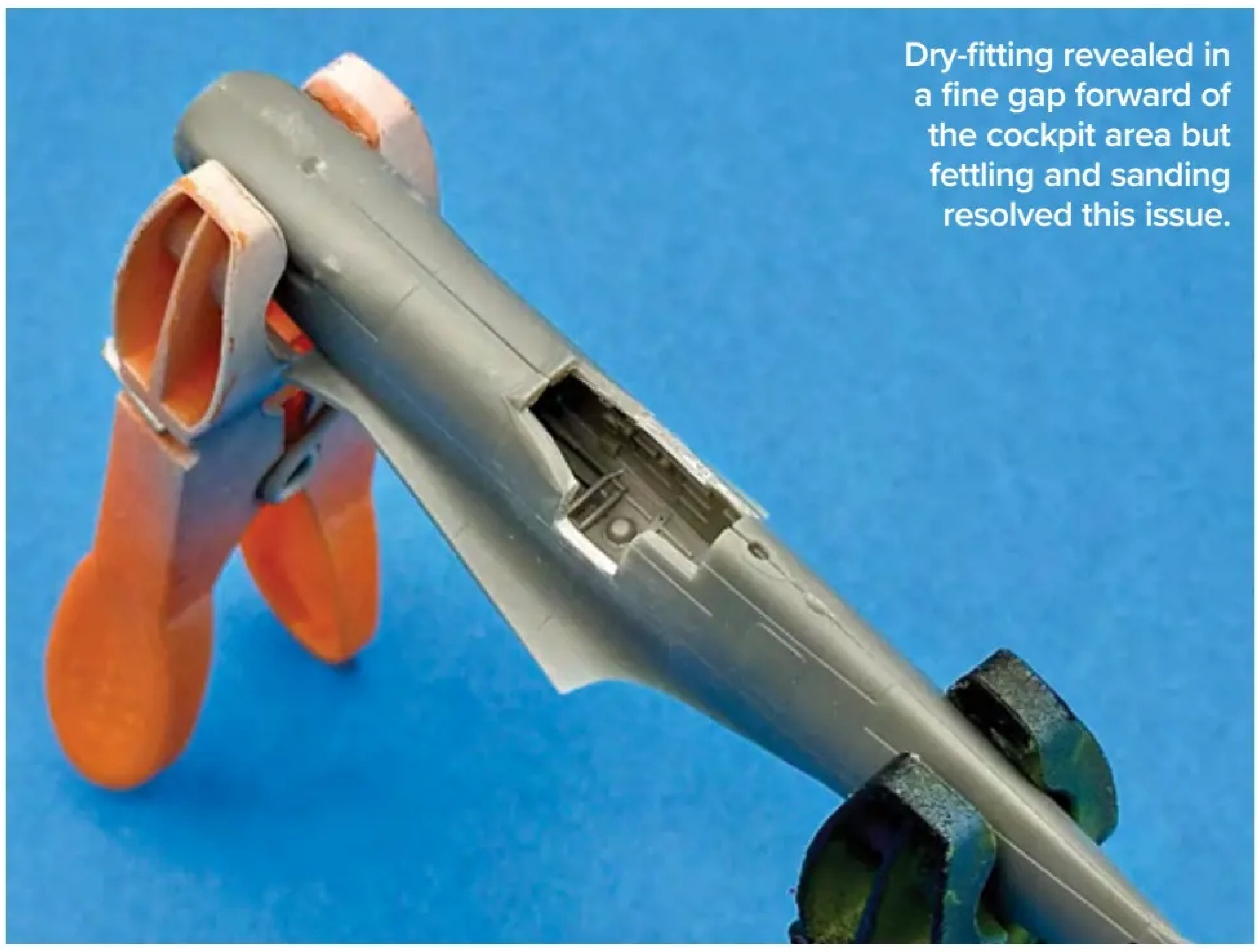
The complete wings with cannon bays installed; these internal structures added significantly more interest to the model.



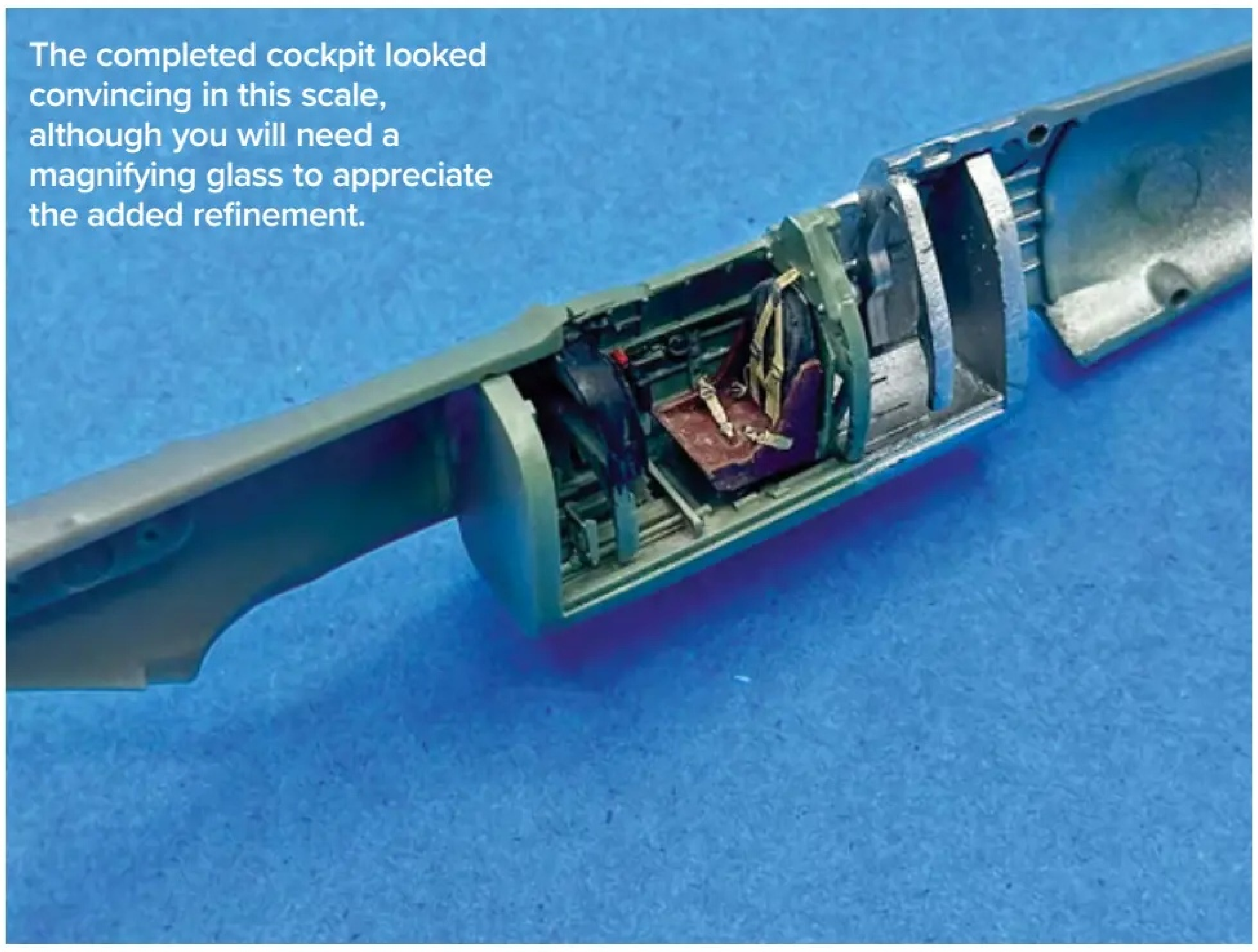
The resin aftermarket cockpit was more refined than the injection-moulded version. Notably, the the seat was more sharply defined.



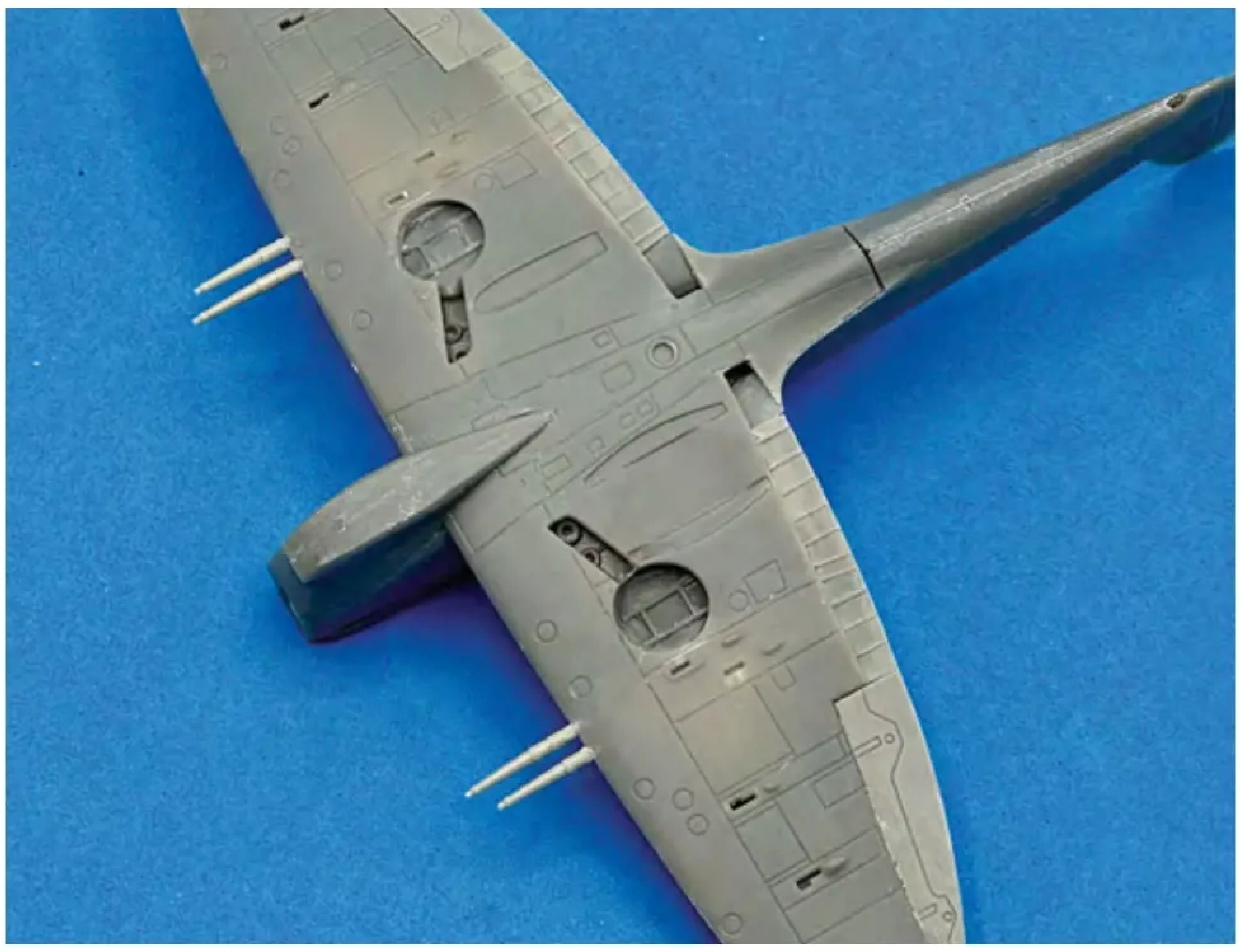
Disregarding CMK's instructions, the cockpit sidewalls were attached to the fuselage halves to make any fit issues easier to resolve.



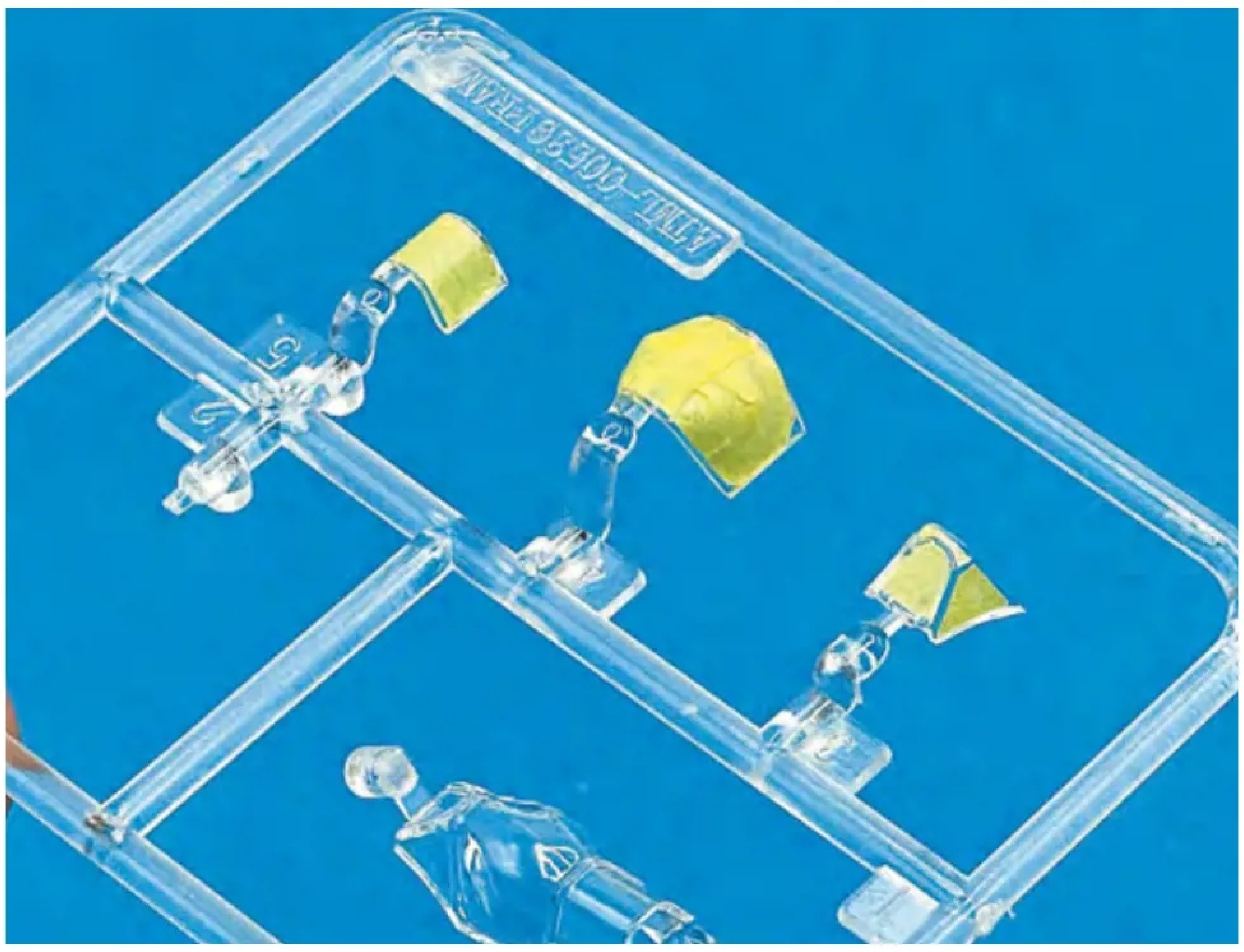
Dry-fitting revealed in a fine gap forward of the cockpit area but fettling and sanding resolved this issue.



The completed cockpit looked convincing in this scale, although you will need a magnifying glass to appreciate the added refinement.



▲ A common theme of Spitfire kits is a gap in the gull-wing area. This was filled with plastic card and sanded smooth.



▲ The Peewit pre-cut, self-adhesive masks for the glazing fitted perfectly and saved much time and hassle..

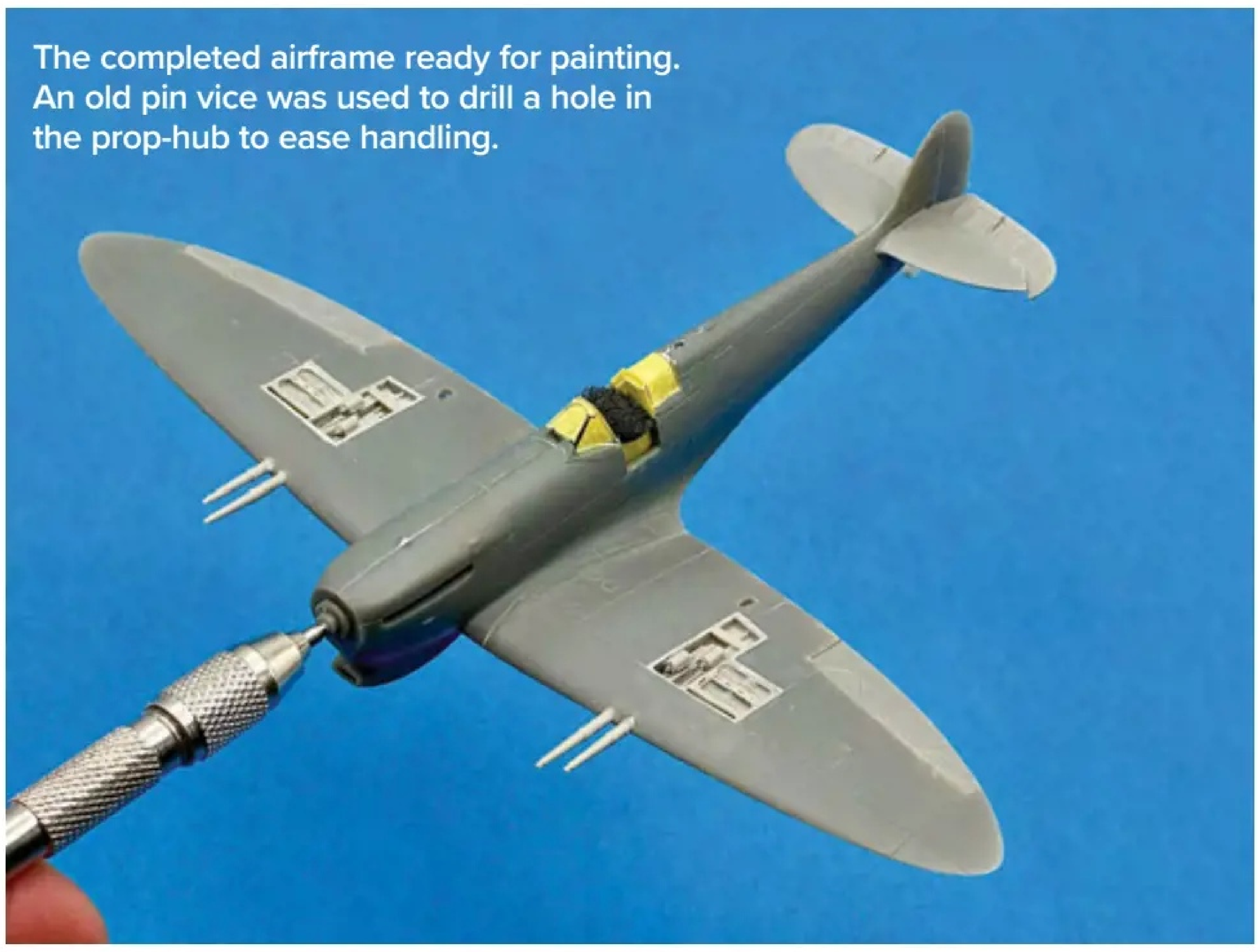
ratio. The cushioned section was then accentuated in black and weathered accordingly. All sub-assemblies were cemented in place, along with the PE seatbelts and instrument panel, after which the fuselage halves were mated.

Once dry, the wings were joined to the fuselage, with caution taken to avoid gaps along the wing root. However, a sizable gap was present on the underside where the aft portion of the wing meets the fuselage (the so-called 'gull-wing' area) - sadly, this is a common 'gotcha' on many Spitfire kits. This was filled with a plastic-card shim, then neatened by filling and sanding… the upper cowling also received filler to remove the join line. The Vokes tropical filter, radiators, horizontal stabilisers, rudder and tailwheel were then added. Notable was the fit of CMK's horizontal stabilisers, which slotted straight into position with no gaps. The canopy was then masked with Peewit's pre-cut set before the forward and rear transparencies were attached.

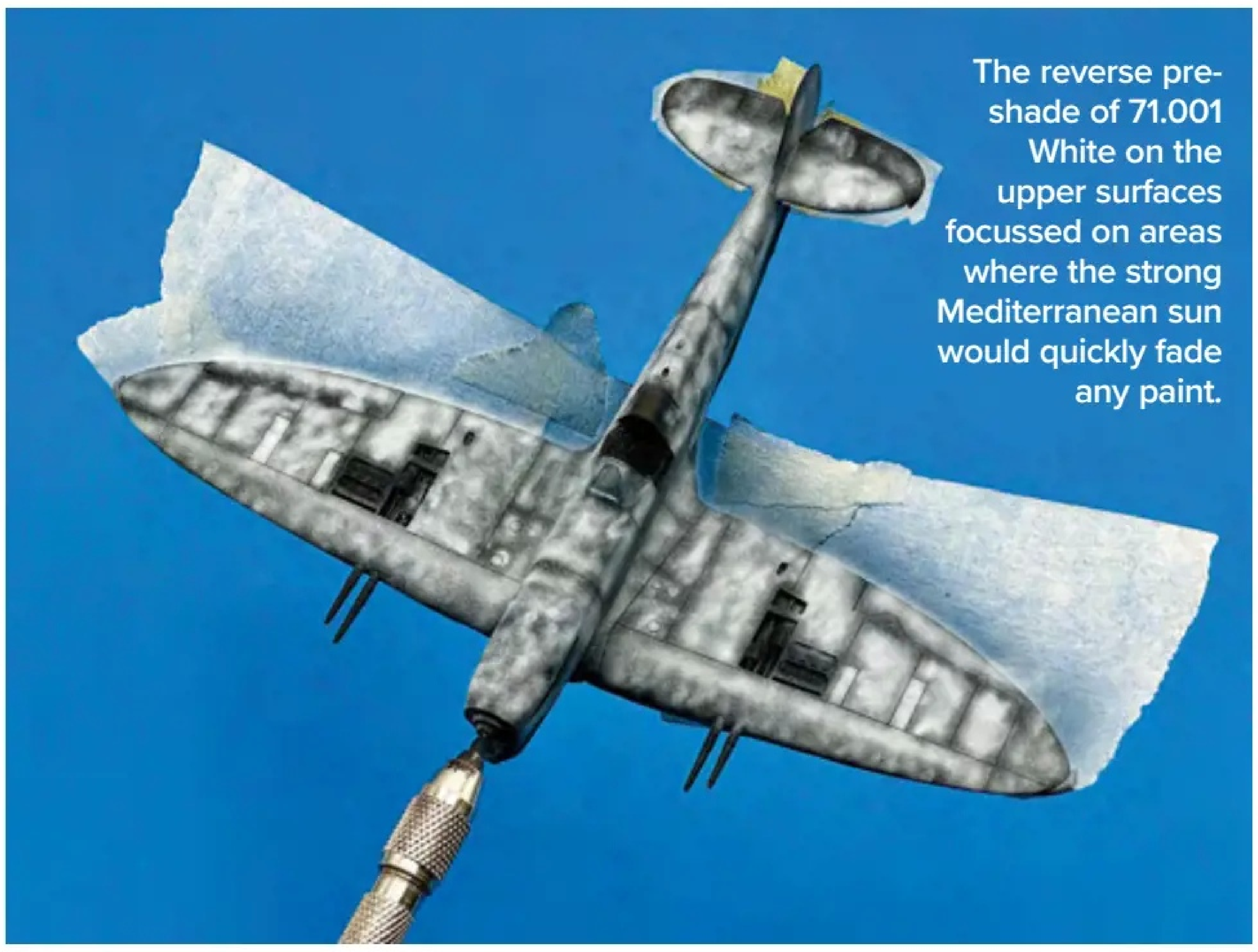
Camouflage conundrum

There have been many debates surrounding the colour of Malta-based Spitfires. The first batch of airframes to arrive on Malta came with the standard desert scheme of Middle Stone and Dark Earth with Sky or Azure Blue undersides. These aircraft were hastily repainted with a local mix described as 'Extra Dark Sea Grey' to suit their new operating theatre over the Mediterranean. This either covered the entire upper surfaces or simply replaced the Middle Stone and left the Dark Earth sections. As operations to reinforce the island with Spitfires continued, the camouflage of the arriving aircraft changed too. During Operation Calendar in April 1942, aircraft aboard USS *Wasp* were repainted using the American paints found aboard the ship. These included various shades of the official Deck Blue 20-B, as well as the Blue-Grey used on the resident F4F-4 Wildcats. Many of these aircraft were repainted again once on Malta and can be seen sporting a locally mixed 'Dark Mediterranean' Blue, which soon became the standard air defence fighter scheme on the island.

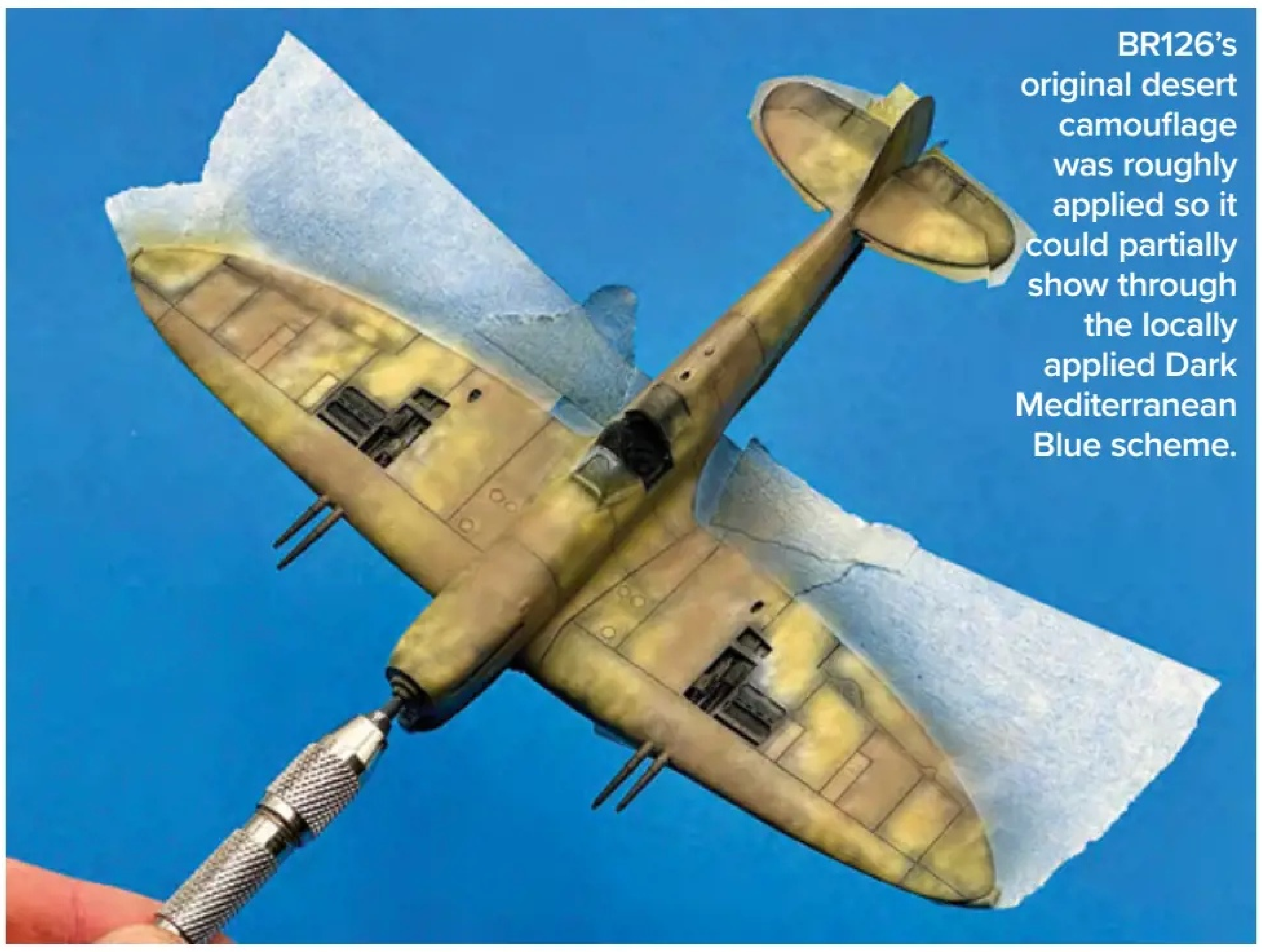
While there are not comprehensive archives of images showing individual aircraft on Malta, there are three of BR126, the subject of this build, after a belly landing in June 1942 (sources differ). These images do not reveal much, but it appears the upper surfaces had been repainted locally in either Dark Mediterranean Blue or Dark Grey. There is no trace of a camouflage pattern or demarcation lines, suggesting the aircraft wore a monotone upper finish. Evidence of a local repaint is further supported by the lack of the delivery code applied on USS *Wasp* (this was '3-X' on BR126, the aircraft that famously landed back on the *Wasp*) as well as a non-standard serial code font… intimating the factory original was overpainted and had been re-applied by hand. New squadron codes, GL-E, had also been applied ▶



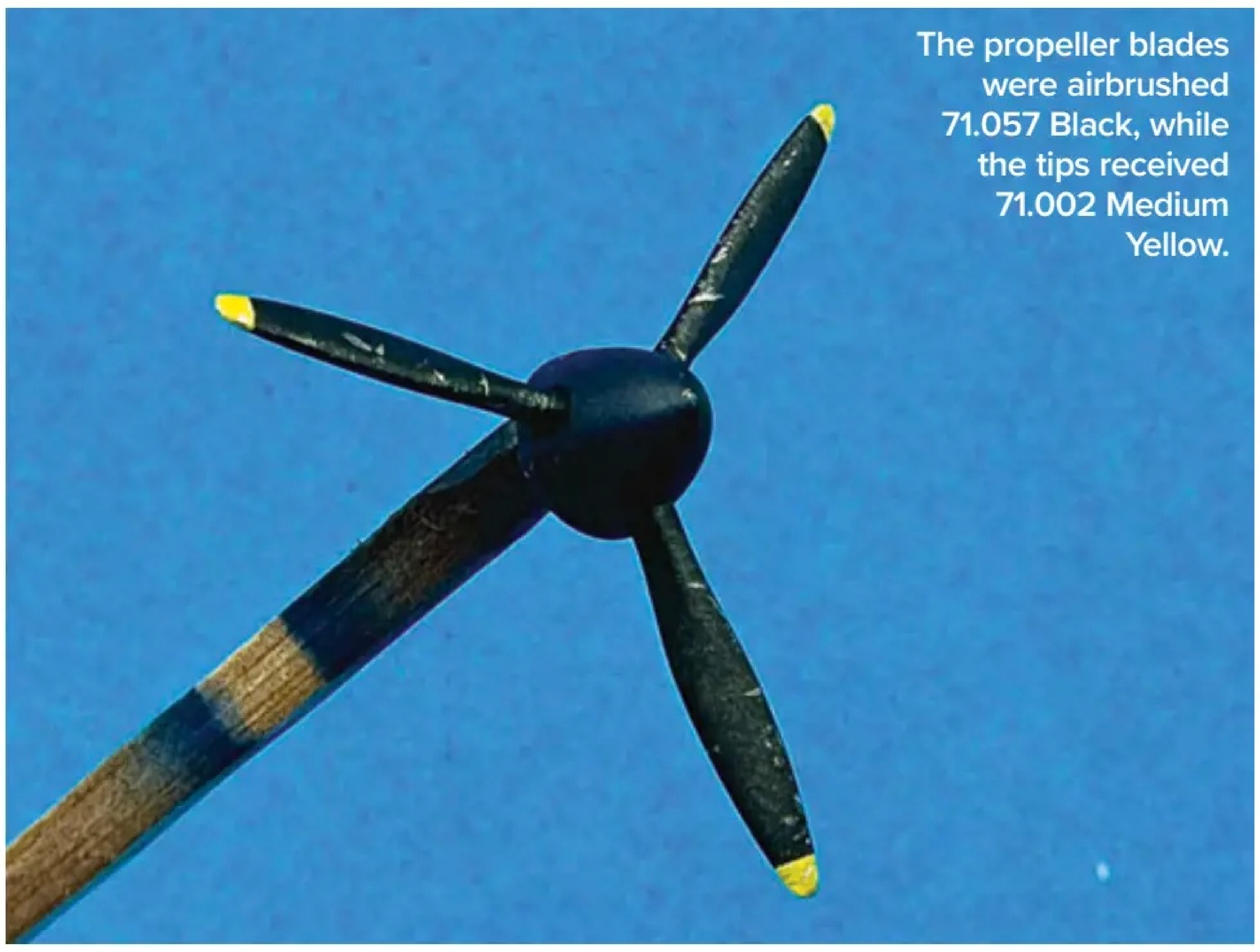
The completed airframe ready for painting. An old pin vice was used to drill a hole in the prop-hub to ease handling.



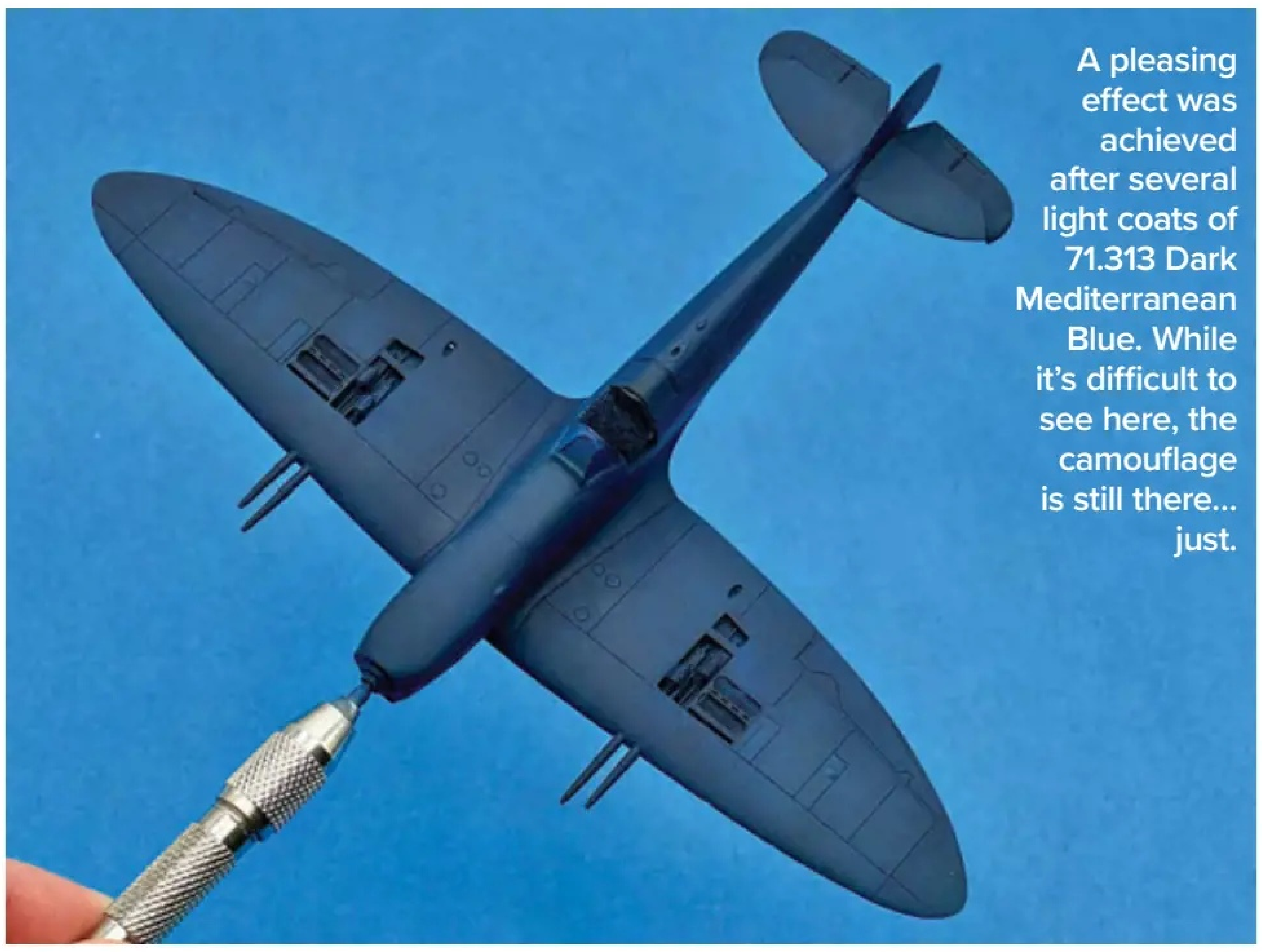
The reverse pre-shade of 71.001 White on the upper surfaces focussed on areas where the strong Mediterranean sun would quickly fade any paint.



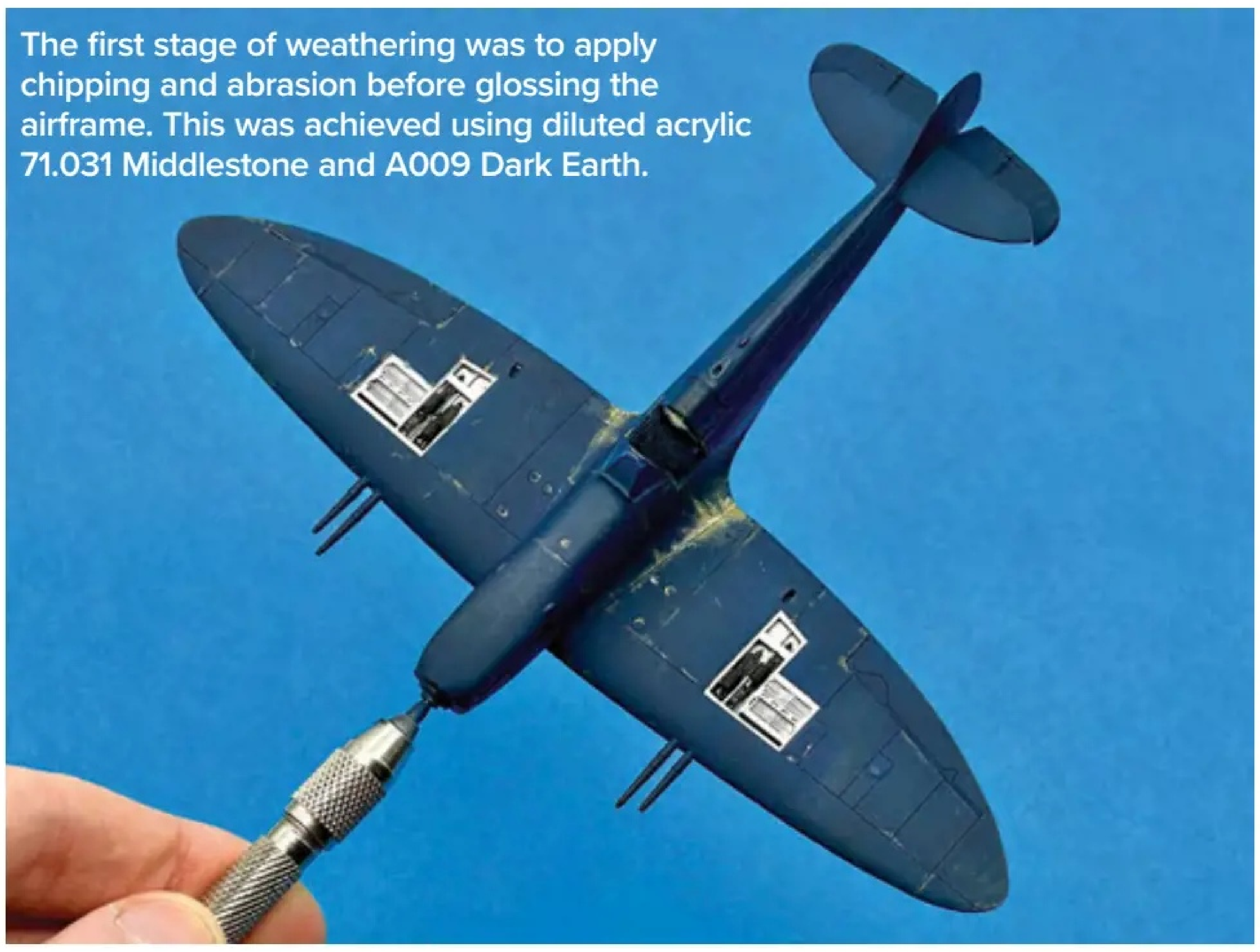
BR126's original desert camouflage was roughly applied so it could partially show through the locally applied Dark Mediterranean Blue scheme.



The propeller blades were airbrushed 71.057 Black, while the tips received 71.002 Medium Yellow.



A pleasing effect was achieved after several light coats of 71.313 Dark Mediterranean Blue. While it's difficult to see here, the camouflage is still there... just.

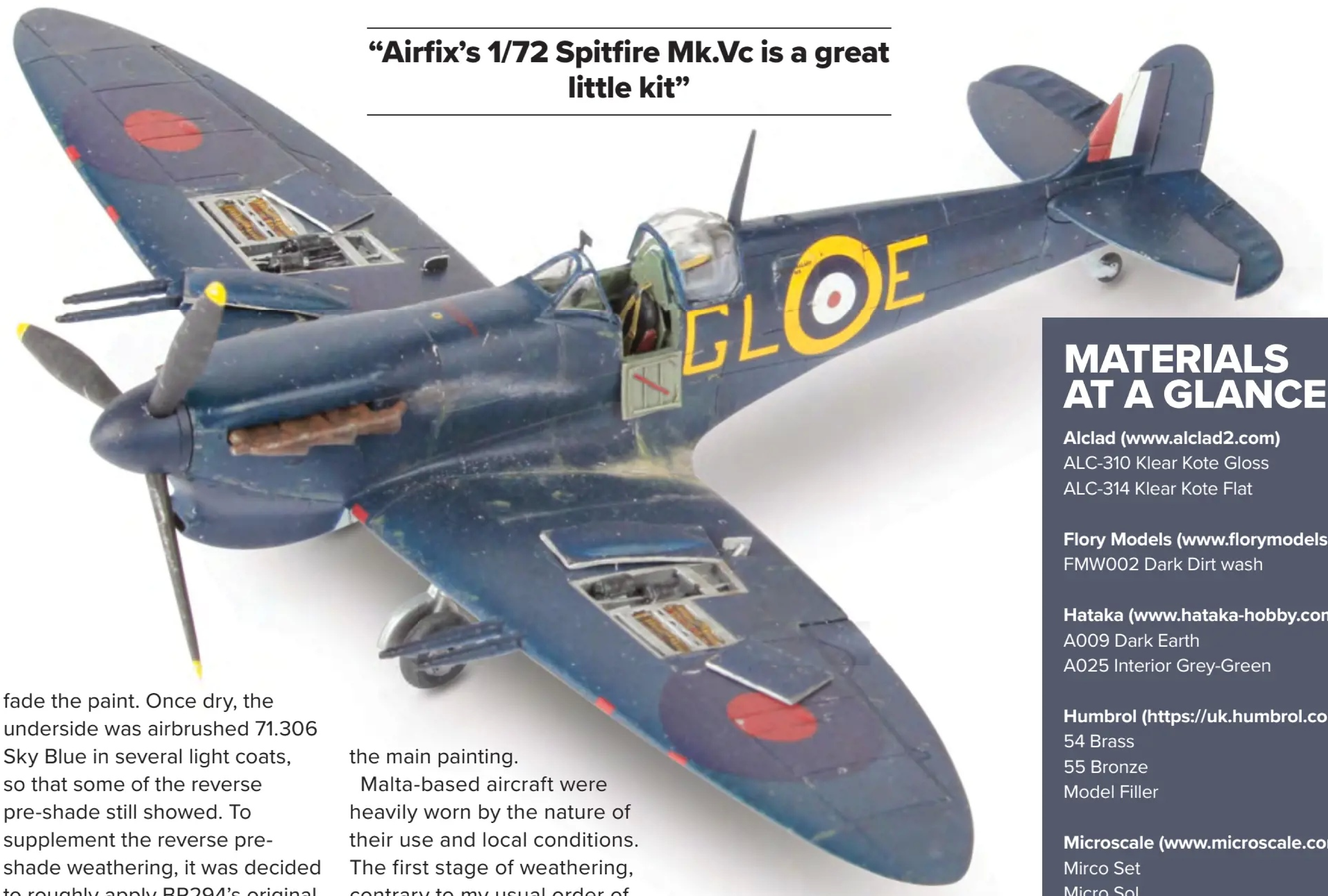


The first stage of weathering was to apply chipping and abrasion before glossing the airframe. This was achieved using diluted acrylic 71.031 Middlestone and A009 Dark Earth.

in the signature yellow lettering of 185 Squadron. However, contradictory sources claim another Spitfire, BR294, also wore the code GL-E. This appears false, with images showing it wore GL-F instead... perhaps an understandable mistake if you're not careful. Indeed, Malta aircraft and their finishes/colours can be hard to decipher, so research is key – although you still might not find a definitive answer.

Feeling blue

The airframe was primed in black to highlight any surface anomalies and then reverse pre-shaded using 71.001 White. This was done evenly on the underside, but the upper surfaces received a more focussed approach in areas where sun would quickly



> **"Airfix's 1/72 Spitfire Mk.Vc is a great little kit"**

fade the paint. Once dry, the underside was airbrushed 71.306 Sky Blue in several light coats, so that some of the reverse pre-shade still showed. To supplement the reverse pre-shade weathering, it was decided to roughly apply BR294's original desert camouflage scheme so traces could be seen through the following coat. The camouflage was airbrushed freehand with heavily thinned 71.031 Middlestone and A009 Dark Earth. 71.313 Dark Mediterranean Blue was then applied thinly over the camouflage pattern, building the opacity until the desert colours could barely be seen. The gun bays, wheel wells and flap housings were then masked and sprayed aluminium to complete the main painting.

Malta-based aircraft were heavily worn by the nature of their use and local conditions. The first stage of weathering, contrary to my usual order of working, was carried out prior to the gloss varnish coat. This would allow for quick corrections without having to re-gloss. First, the two desert colours of Middlestone and Dark Earth were thinned 9:1 water to paint. Using a fine-tip sable brush, areas of wear – such as wing walkways and roots, gun covers, inspection panels and cowlings – were gently dry-brushed and dabbed. The thinned paint was also allowed to wick along the panels to heighten the effect. Aluminium was applied sparingly in high-wear areas to represent abrasions, chipping, and scratches. The airframe was then glossed ready for decals.

Ready for battle

The aftermarket markings from Euro Decals adhered without issue, although the carrier film was thick in places. However, the colour profile of the wing roundels appeared slightly

▶

MATERIALS AT A GLANCE

Alclad (www.alclad2.com)
ALC-310 Klear Kote Gloss
ALC-314 Klear Kote Flat

Flory Models (www.florymodels.org)
FMW002 Dark Dirt wash

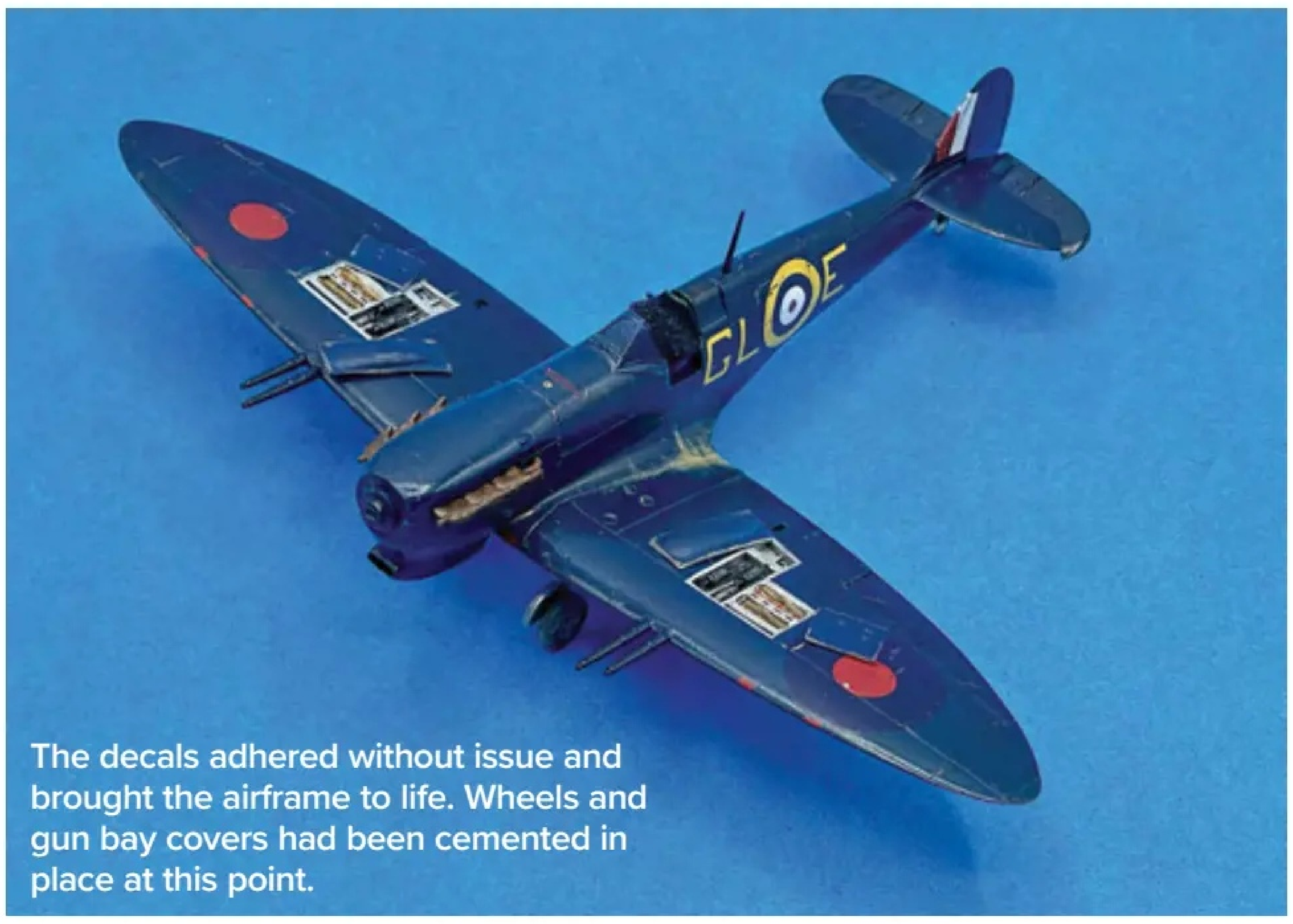
Hataka (www.hataka-hobby.com)
A009 Dark Earth
A025 Interior Grey-Green

Humbrol (https://uk.humbrol.com)
54 Brass
55 Bronze
Model Filler

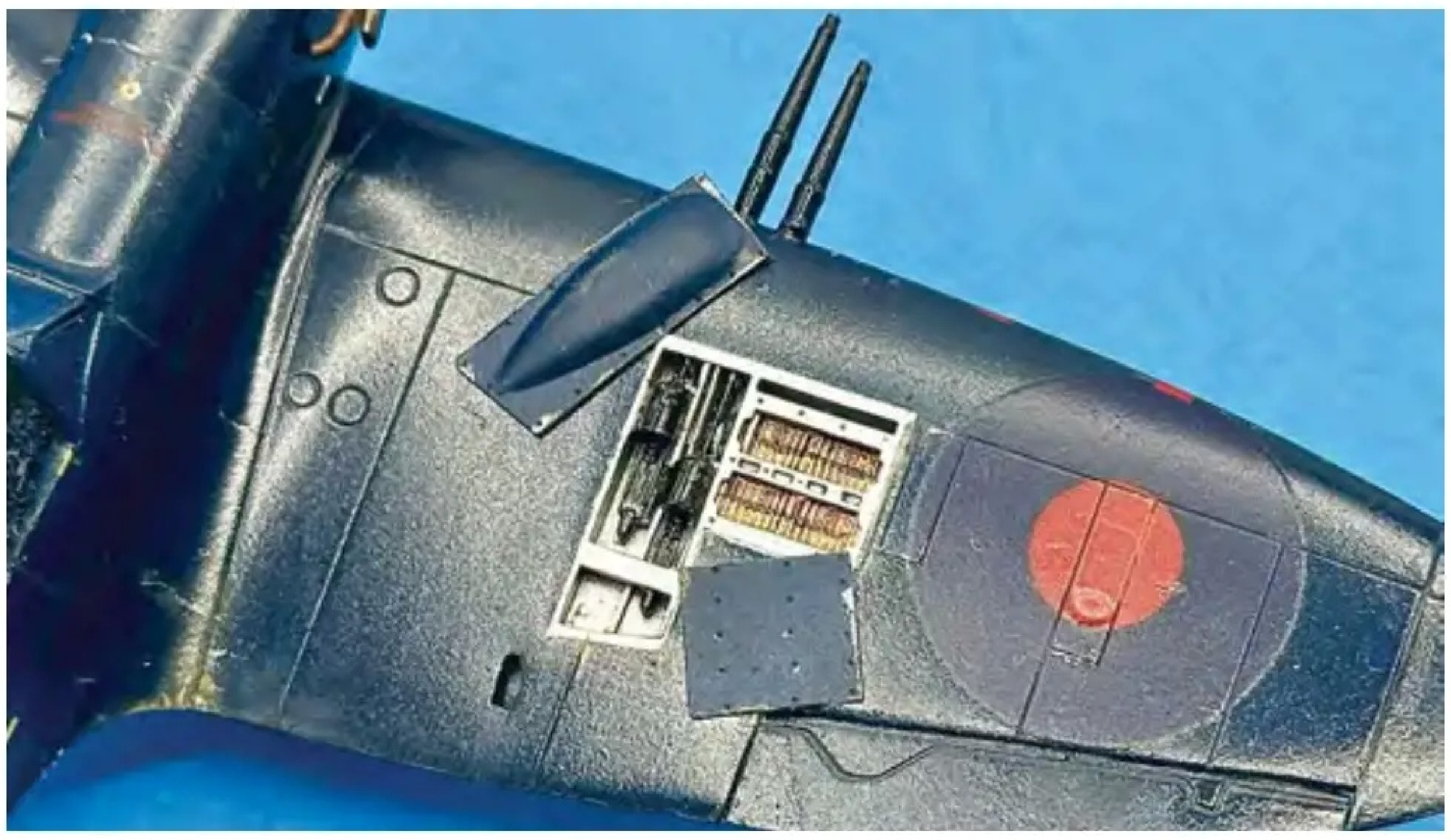
Microscale (www.microscale.com)
Mirco Set
Micro Sol

Tamiya (www.hobbyco.net)
Extra Thin Cement
Masking Tape

Vallejo (www.creativemodels.co.uk)
71.001 White
71.269 Red
71.031 Middlestone
71.057 Black
71.062 Aluminium
71.072 Gun Grey
71.306 Sky Blue
71.313 Dark Mediterranean Blue



The decals adhered without issue and brought the airframe to life. Wheels and gun bay covers had been cemented in place at this point.



▲ The Hispano 20mm cannons were painted black and dry-brushed with grey. Ammunition belts received Humbrol 54 Brass and 55 Bronze for the casings and bullets respectively. Red was applied carefully to every fifth round, representing a standard RAF tracer belt.

EXTRAS

CMK (www.specialhobby.eu)
7493 Spitfire Mk.Vc Wing Guns
7485 Spitfire Mk.Vc Cockpit
7487 Spitfire Mk.Vc Control Surfaces

Eduard (www.eduard.com)
672249 Spitfire Mk.Vc Wheels

Euro Decals (www.fantasyprintshop.co.uk)
ED72141 Supermarine Spitfires over Malta

Peewit (www.hannants.co.uk)
72268 Spitfire Mk.Vc Canopy Masks
75013 Spitfire Mk.Vc Paper Wheel Bay Masks

> **“There have been many debates about the colour of the Malta-based Spitfires”**

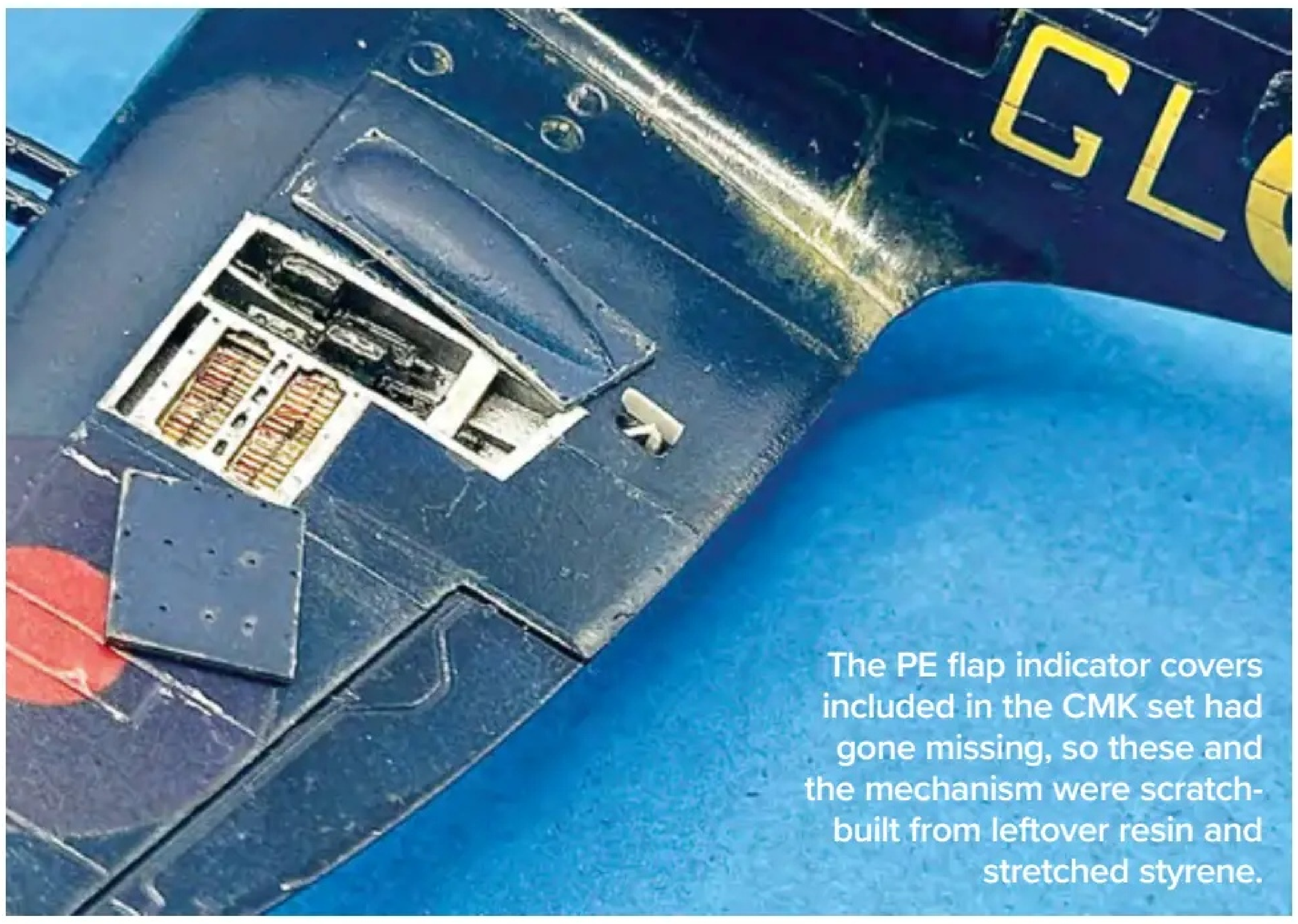
‘off’. To my eye, the red centre seemed too light when compared with reference images; Airfix’s markings were more accurate. These were applied instead and performed equally to those on the Euro Decals sheet, reacting well to Micro Set and Micro Sol solutions. Stencils from the Airfix sheet were also utilised for the underside and sparingly on the upper surfaces... remember, the aircraft was swiftly repainted locally so time-consuming stencil re-application was unlikely.

Weathering could continue after a second layer of gloss varnish. This was done with pastels diluted with water to create streaks and leaks across the undersides, and dry pastels for dust and exhaust staining. A conservative Flory Models Dark Dirt wash was then applied to the underside. It was felt the wash wasn’t required on the dark blue upper surfaces as it risked overpowering the weathering effects achieved by the pastels and acrylics. Content with the look, the airframe was then matt varnished.

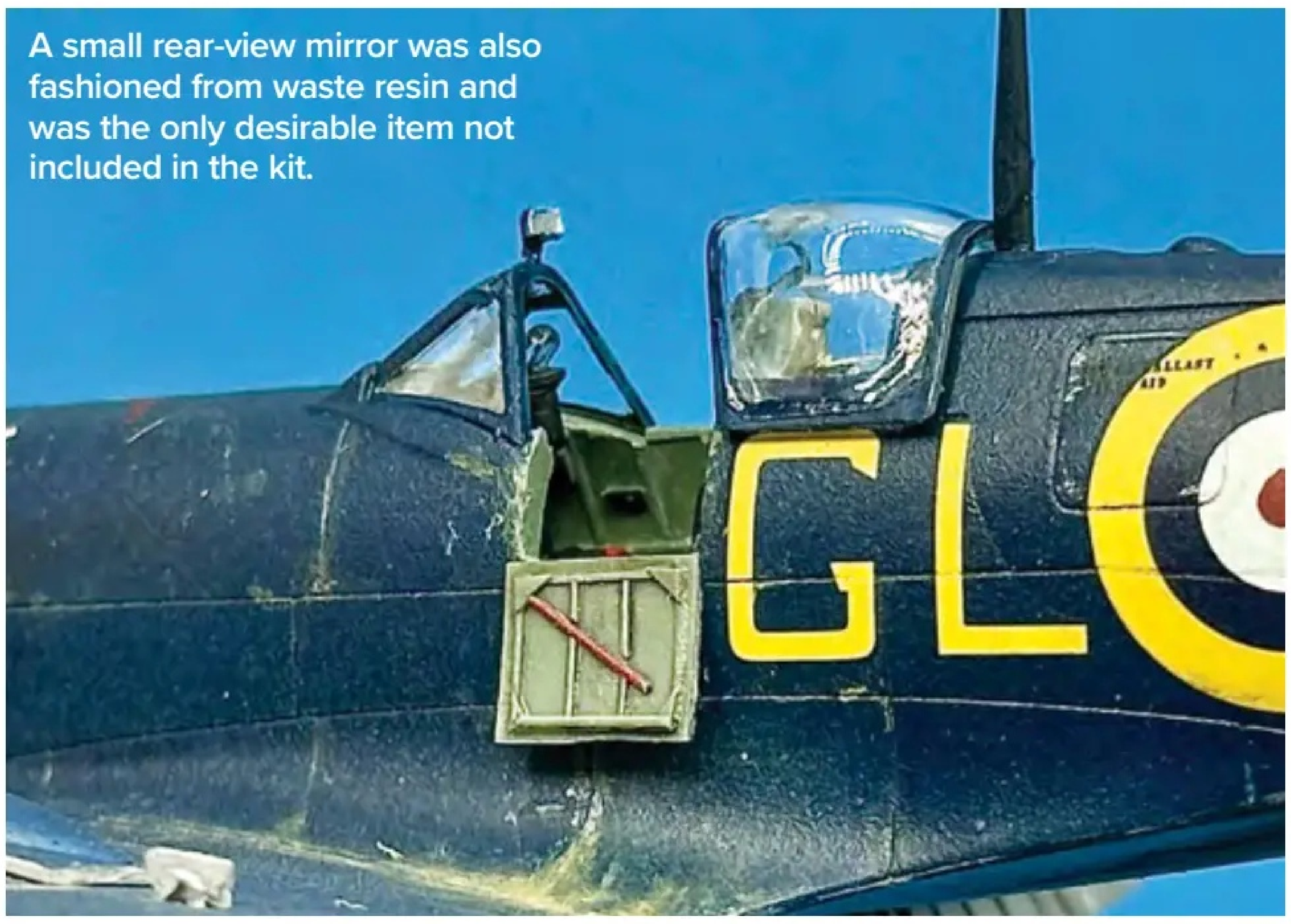
Final assembly then commenced. First, the main undercarriage was attached, followed by Eduard’s Brassin wheels, which had been sprayed black. The hubs were then picked out in aluminium and the rubber weathered with desert-toned pastel dust. The pitot tube and IFF antenna were painted and cemented in place. Then, the flaps were installed in the down position (although they were usually raised when on the ground to avoid damage). It would certainly cost the pilot at least a round of drinks in the mess! In this case, they were posed down for ‘maintenance.’ Unfortunately, the PE flap-indicator doors had also disappeared from the CMK set, so these were fashioned from thinned resin, cut to size. The opening mechanism was scratch-built from a length of heat-stretched styrene runner, added, and painted aluminium to match. Finally, the canopy was secured with AK Crystal Magic Glue, the cockpit door attached, and a scratch-built rear mirror from leftover resin added.

Ideal canvas

Airfix’s 1/72 Spitfire Mk.Vc kit is a great little kit. While I didn’t get the full ‘out of the box’ experience, the detail is good, parts breakdown is sensible, and the fit almost perfect. The CMK set elevates the build considerably... helping to ensure an excellent display item and providing a more challenging project for experienced modellers. Overall, it represents great value, even with a small selection of ‘goodies’ on top, and comes highly recommended for an entertaining and relatively quick, small-scale build.



The PE flap indicator covers included in the CMK set had gone missing, so these and the mechanism were scratch-built from leftover resin and stretched styrene.



A small rear-view mirror was also fashioned from waste resin and was the only desirable item not included in the kit.

All major credit cards accepted

KIT KRAZY

RARE KITS AT REASONABLE PRICES

MAIL ORDER ALSO AVAILABLE FOR NEW AND OLD KITS.
Phone enquiries welcome

BUY 2 KITS GET ONE FREE THE CHEAPEST KIT FREE
(this month sale)

AS SEEN ON YouTube

25% OFF purchases at outdoor shows and in our shop *with this coupon*

Airfix Model World

Over 50 Brands of Plastic Construction Kits bought or swapped up to 1/3 discount.

303 The Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 8DT | Tel: (020) 8298 7177

OPEN: **Tues, Thurs & Sat 10am - 4pm**

Refreshments provided & Mail Order Service.

AIRBRUSHES.com

EXCLUSIVE UK Distributor for Iwata & Sparmax

HIGH QUALITY PRODUCT OF THE MONTH HIGH QUALITY

HIGH QUALITY OUR TOP PICK OF THE MONTH HIGH QUALITY

iwata
Eclipse CS Airbrush

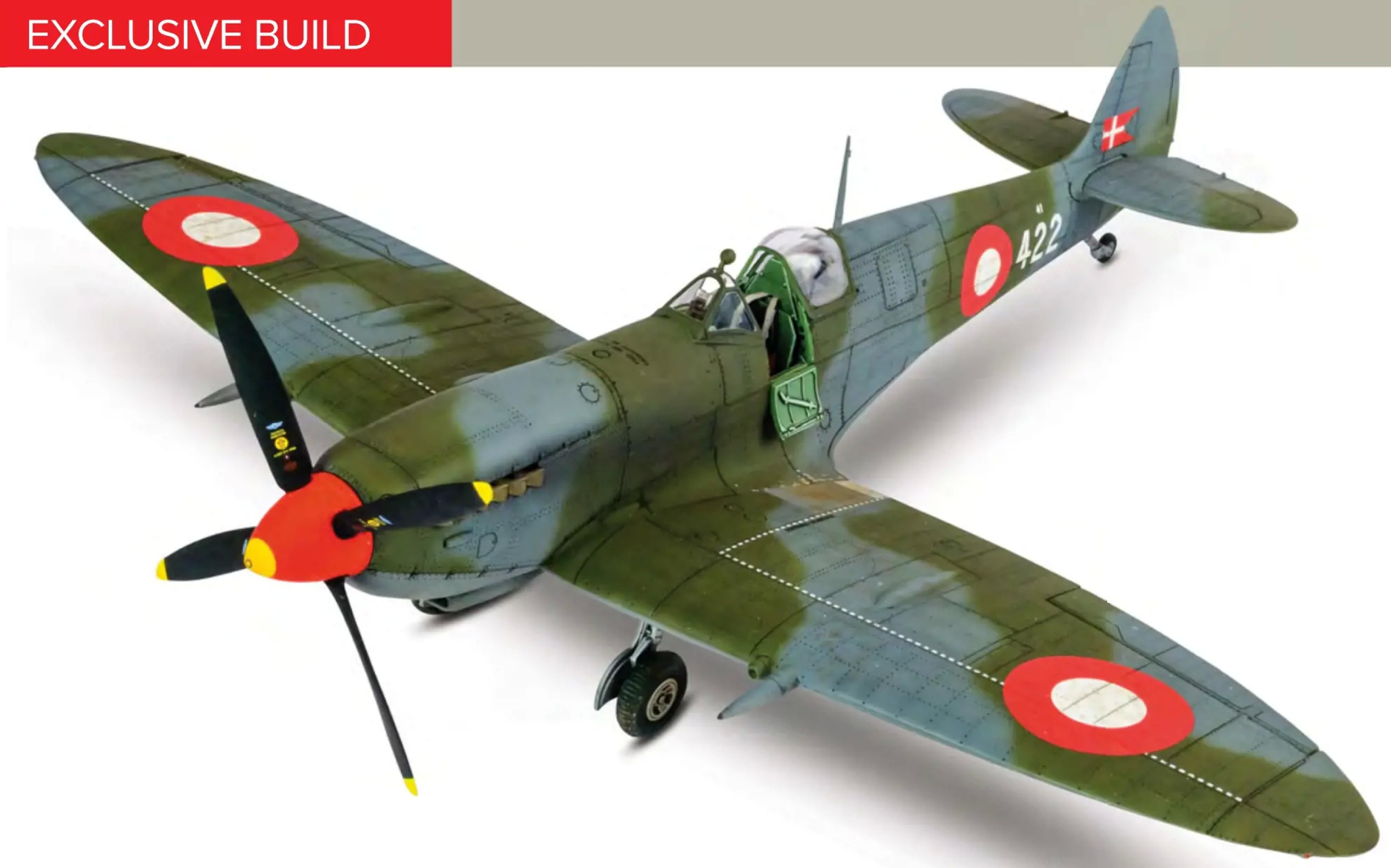
SPARMAX
620X Compressor

The **Iwata Eclipse CS Airbrush** is known for its versatility. Offering a broad spray range, it is possible to achieve a controlled fine line to controlled wide spray.

The **Sparmax TC-620X** is a powerful automatic twin piston compressor with a 2.5L air tank, providing smooth and consistent airflow. It has ample power for any airbrushing task.

Vist: www.Airbrushes.com Call: 01903 767800 Email: sales@airbrushes.com
The Airbrush Company Ltd. 79 Marlborough Road, Lancing Business Park, Lancing, BN15 8UF

LIQUID PIGMENTS · LIFECOLOR · MODEL CRAFT · THE ARMY PAINTER · GodHand · BADGER



NOT YOUR Usual Spitfire

A new Airfix 1/48 Spitfire Mk.IXe was bound to appeal to Alan Price, who's seldom turns down the opportunity of building the type. Here he completes an exclusive test-shot.

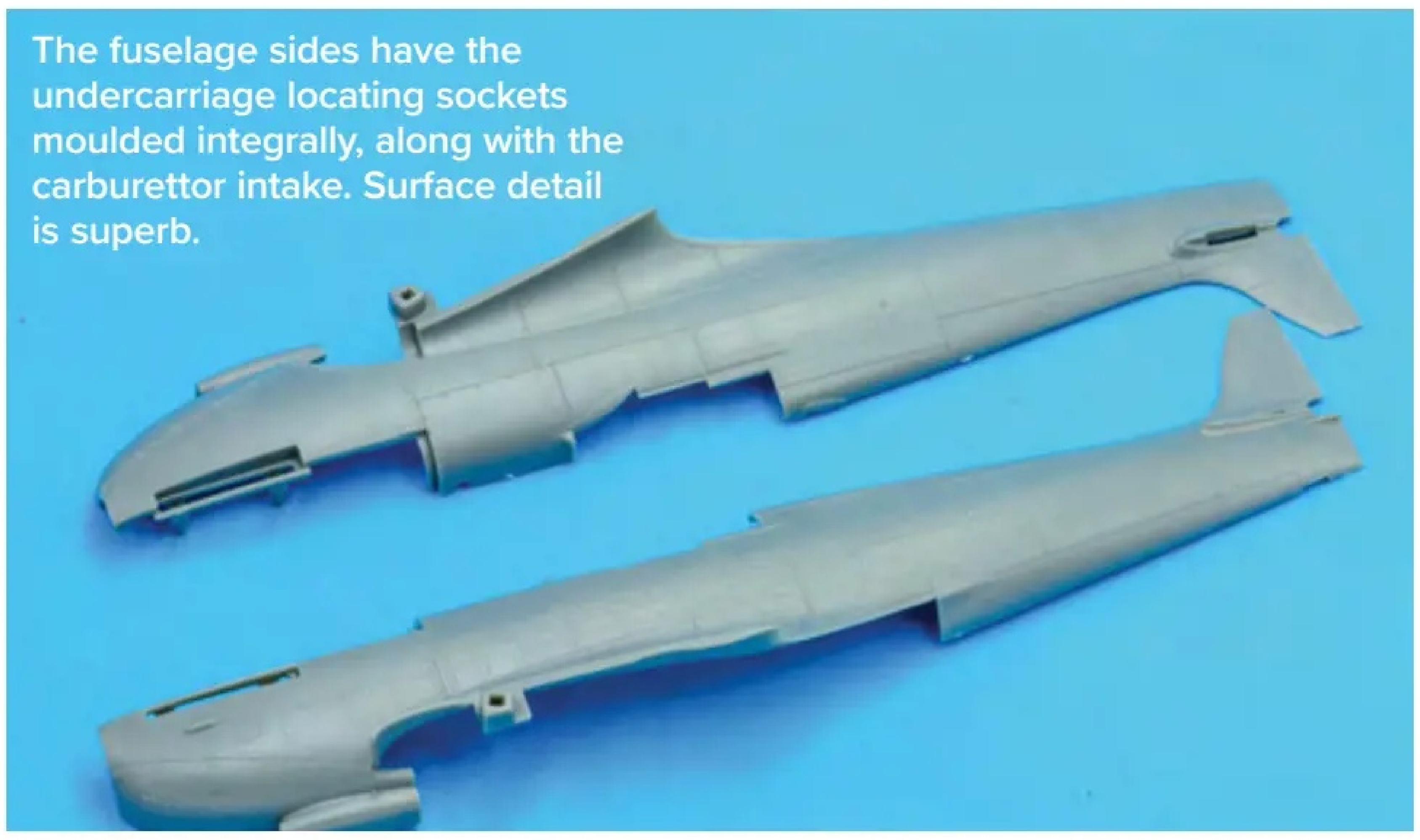
MODEL SPEC

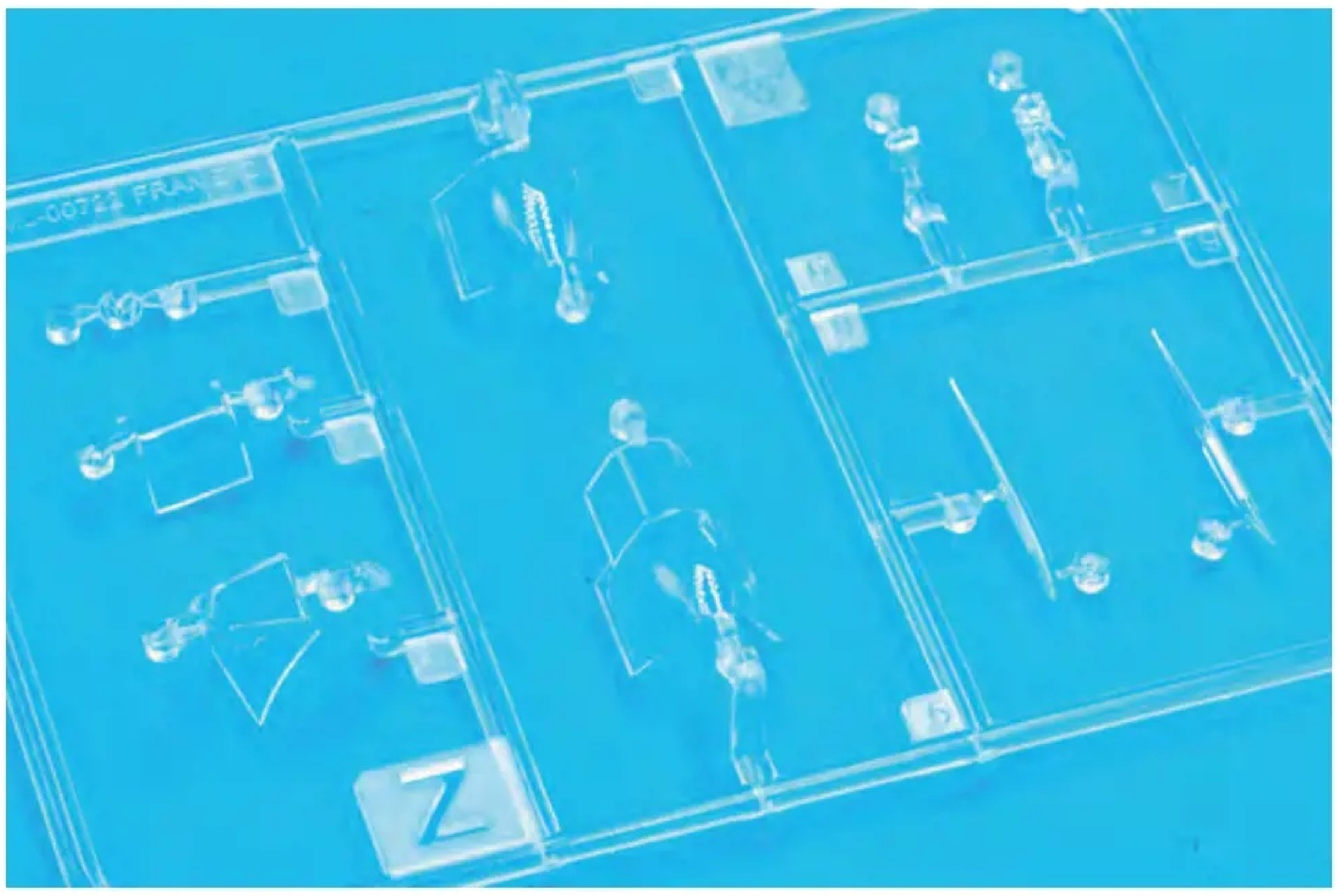
Supermarine Spitfire Mk.IXe
By: Airfix
Stock Code: A05144
Scale: 1/48
Price: £29.99
Available From: https://uk.airfix.com

AIRFIX
1:48 SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE Mk.IXe

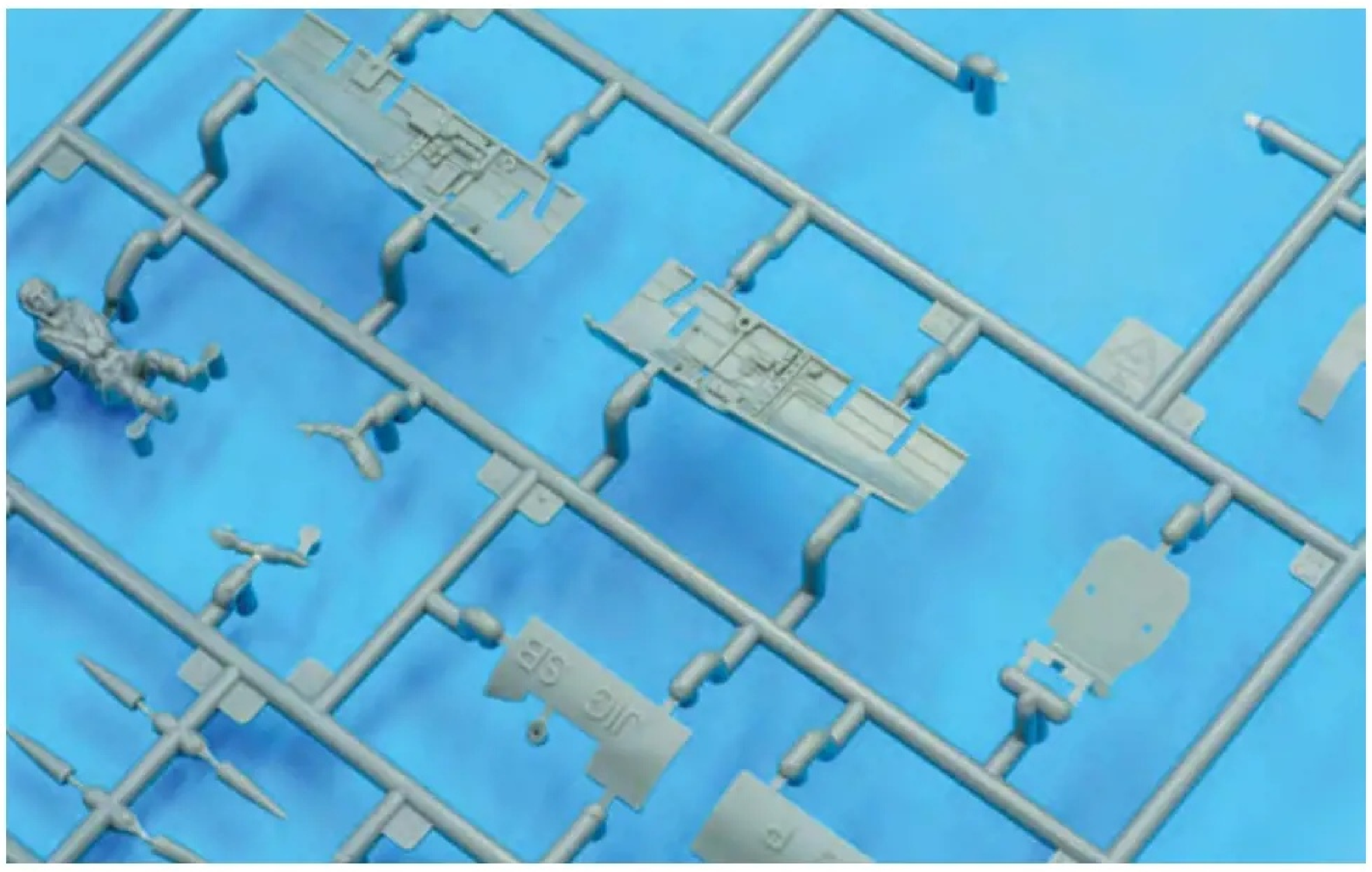
Much has been written about the Spitfire Mk.IX in previous issues of *AMW*, so we'll jump straight into the build of this all-new Mk.IXe. The featured kit is a pre-production test-shot and was subject to several minor alterations following this build (more on that later). Airfix has several Spitfires available in 1/48, but this is its first Mk.IX, and joins its recent two-seat 'cousin', the TR.9, which featured in *AMW*175 June 2025. Of note, the Mk.IX was the most numerous Spitfire variant, and appeared in several guises with different wings, engines and rudders. The 'e' suffix denotes the wing type, which was equipped with a 20mm Hispano cannon and .50 cal machine gun on each side. This variant was also fitted with the later broad-chord, taller, pointed rudder and a longer carburettor intake. Two engine types were used, the Merlin 66 for the LF sub-type (short for low-altitude fighter) and clipped-wing airframes and the Merlin 70 for the HF (high-altitude fighter) version.

There are four dark grey styrene runners, several of which are common with the TR.9 (those providing the wings, undercarriage and various internal features), plus a clear frame for the transparent parts. Moulding is first-class, with superb engraved detail for the rivets on the airframe and fine, consistent panel lines. Transparencies are thin and crystal clear. Airfix supplies parts


The fuselage sides have the undercarriage locating sockets moulded integrally, along with the carburettor intake. Surface detail is superb.



▲ Transparencies are crystal clear and thin. A fully closed version is provided, along with separate parts for an open canopy.



▲ The kit has the now common design of Spitfire interior used by many manufacturers, where the lower sides form a tub into which the cockpit can be assembled. Jigs allow the canopy rails to be cut for a closed canopy.

for either a standard or clipped-wing airframe (depending on the colour schemes). The long carburettor intake is moulded integrally with the fuselage halves, and just the taller rudder is included, so – based on this test-shot – it means just a Mk.IXe can be built.

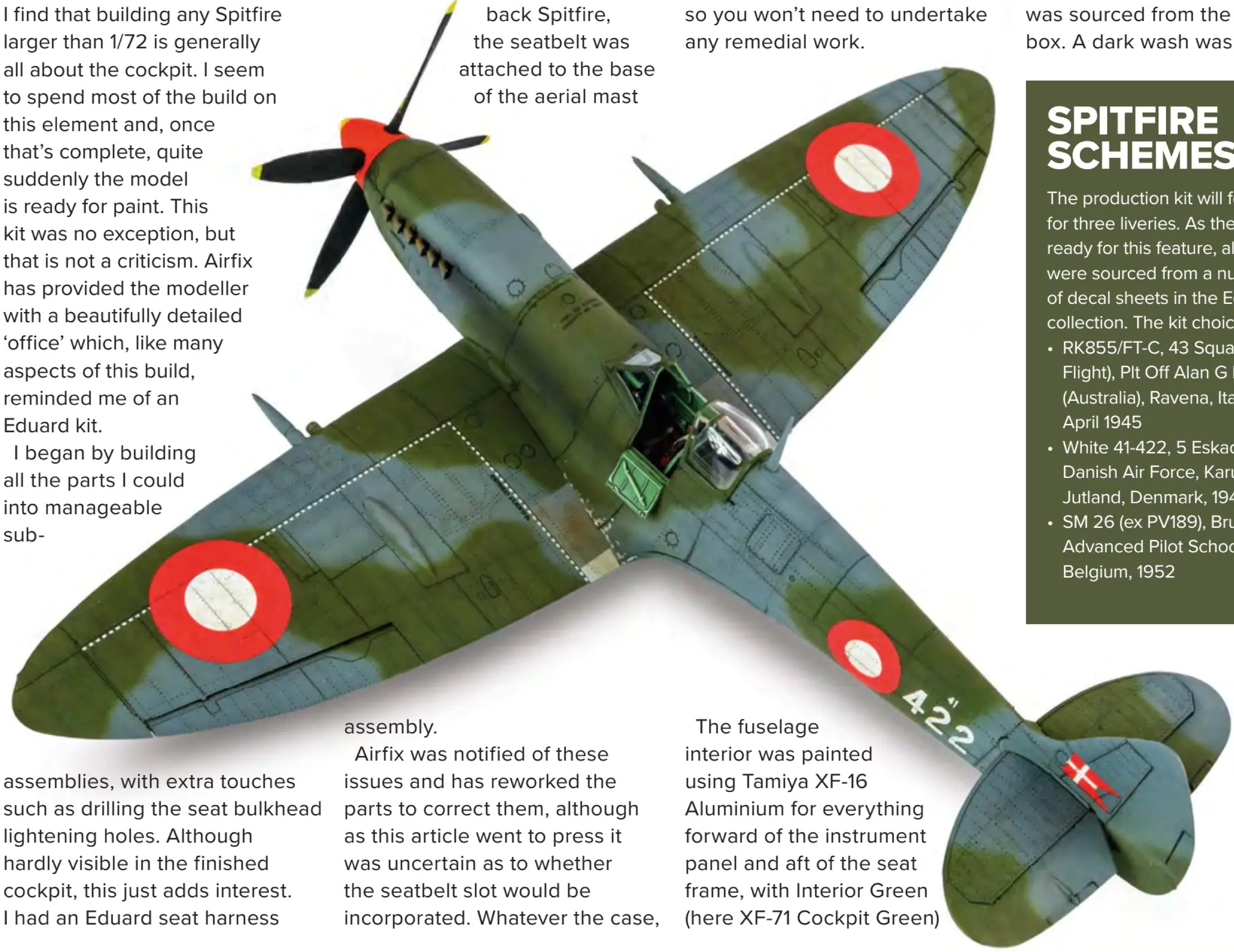
Single-seat 'office'

I find that building any Spitfire larger than 1/72 is generally all about the cockpit. I seem to spend most of the build on this element and, once that's complete, quite suddenly the model is ready for paint. This kit was no exception, but that is not a criticism. Airfix has provided the modeller with a beautifully detailed 'office' which, like many aspects of this build, reminded me of an Eduard kit.

I began by building all the parts I could into manageable sub-assemblies, with extra touches such as drilling the seat bulkhead lightening holes. Although hardly visible in the finished cockpit, this just adds interest. I had an Eduard seat harness for a Mk.IX in the spares box, and noticed there was no slot in the seat armour to allow the harness to pass through. On closer inspection, I realised the kit part seemed to be for a low-back Spitfire, with a roller at the top, over which the harness passed, before being secured to a mounting below the seat. On a normal high-back Spitfire, the seatbelt was attached to the base of the aerial mast assembly.

Airfix was notified of these issues and has reworked the parts to correct them, although as this article went to press it was uncertain as to whether the seatbelt slot would be incorporated. Whatever the case, this takes no time to create, should you wish to add an aftermarket harness.

I decided to open the pilot's door and found there was a slight issue with the position of the panel lines, so the door was cut in the proper position, then the panel lines and rivets were corrected. Note, this has been addressed in the production kit, so you won't need to undertake any remedial work.

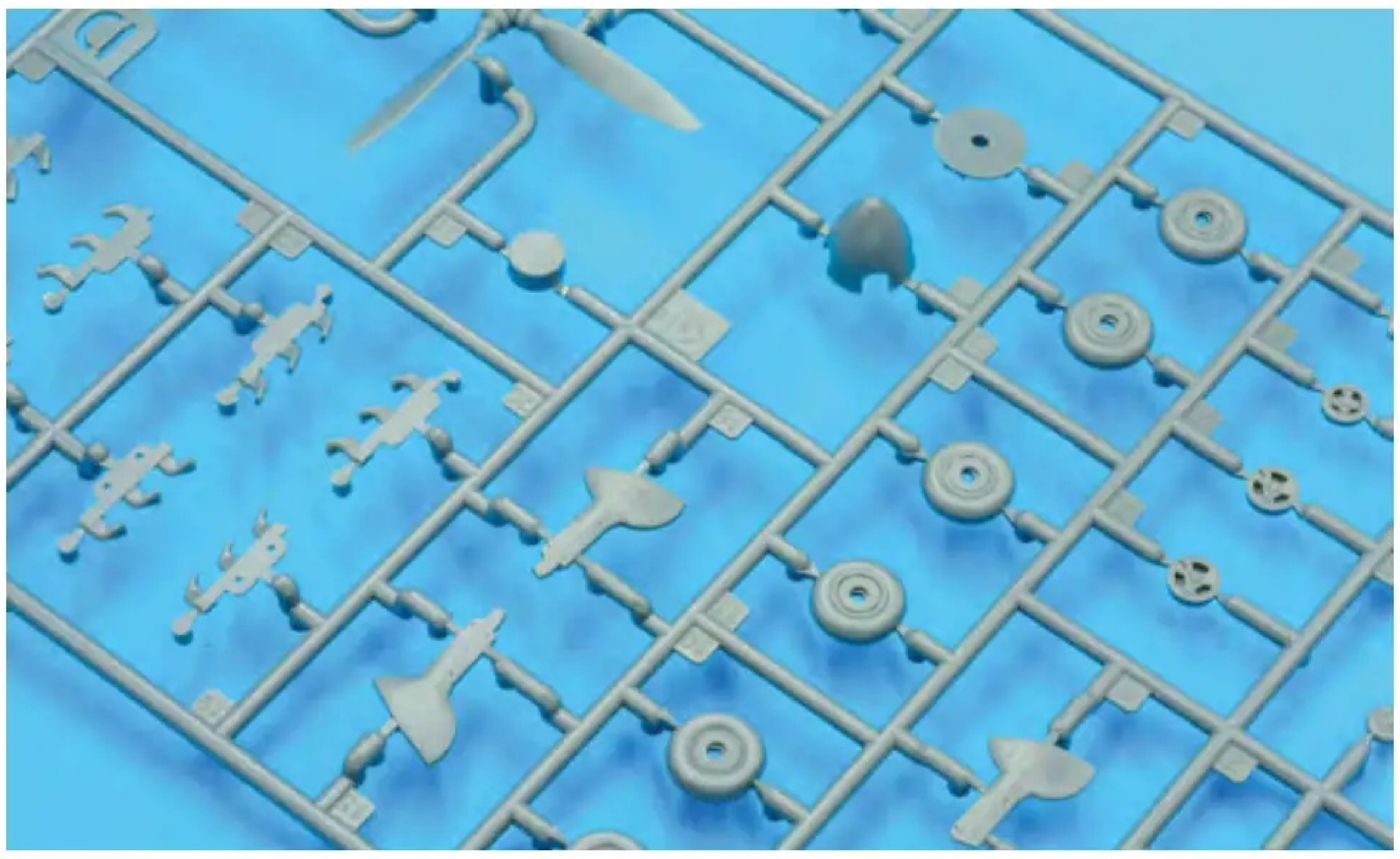


The fuselage interior was painted using Tamiya XF-16 Aluminium for everything forward of the instrument panel and aft of the seat frame, with Interior Green (here XF-71 Cockpit Green) used for the middle section. The seat received a dark red mix to represent the phenolic resin used in these seats, while the instrument panel was painted black. All parts were then dry-brushed with lighter shades of the base colours, before being gloss varnished. Airfix supplies a decal for the instrument panel, but here, an example was sourced from the spares box. A dark wash was then ▶

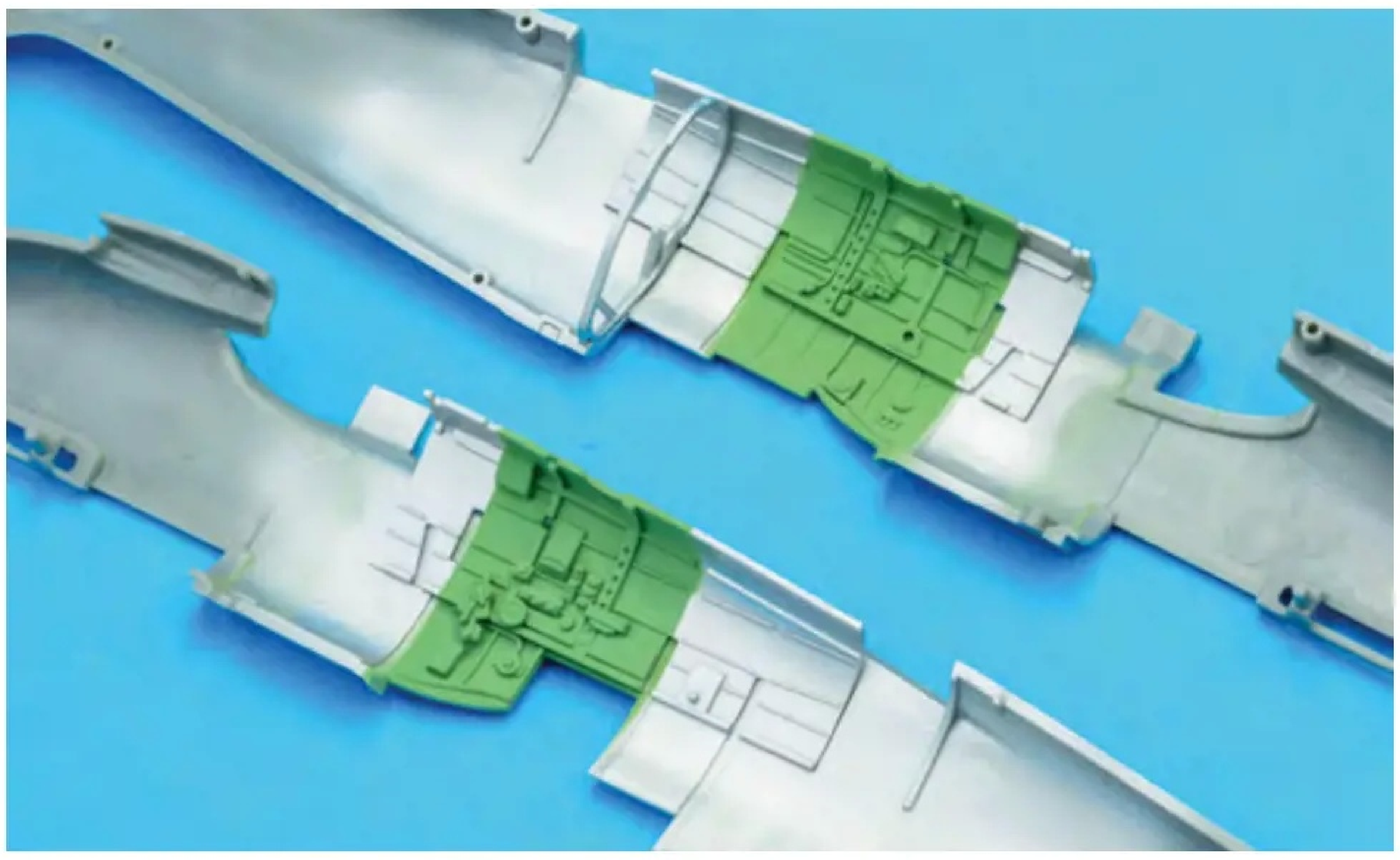
SPITFIRE SCHEMES

The production kit will feature decals for three liveries. As these weren't ready for this feature, alternatives were sourced from a number of decal sheets in the Editor's collection. The kit choices are:

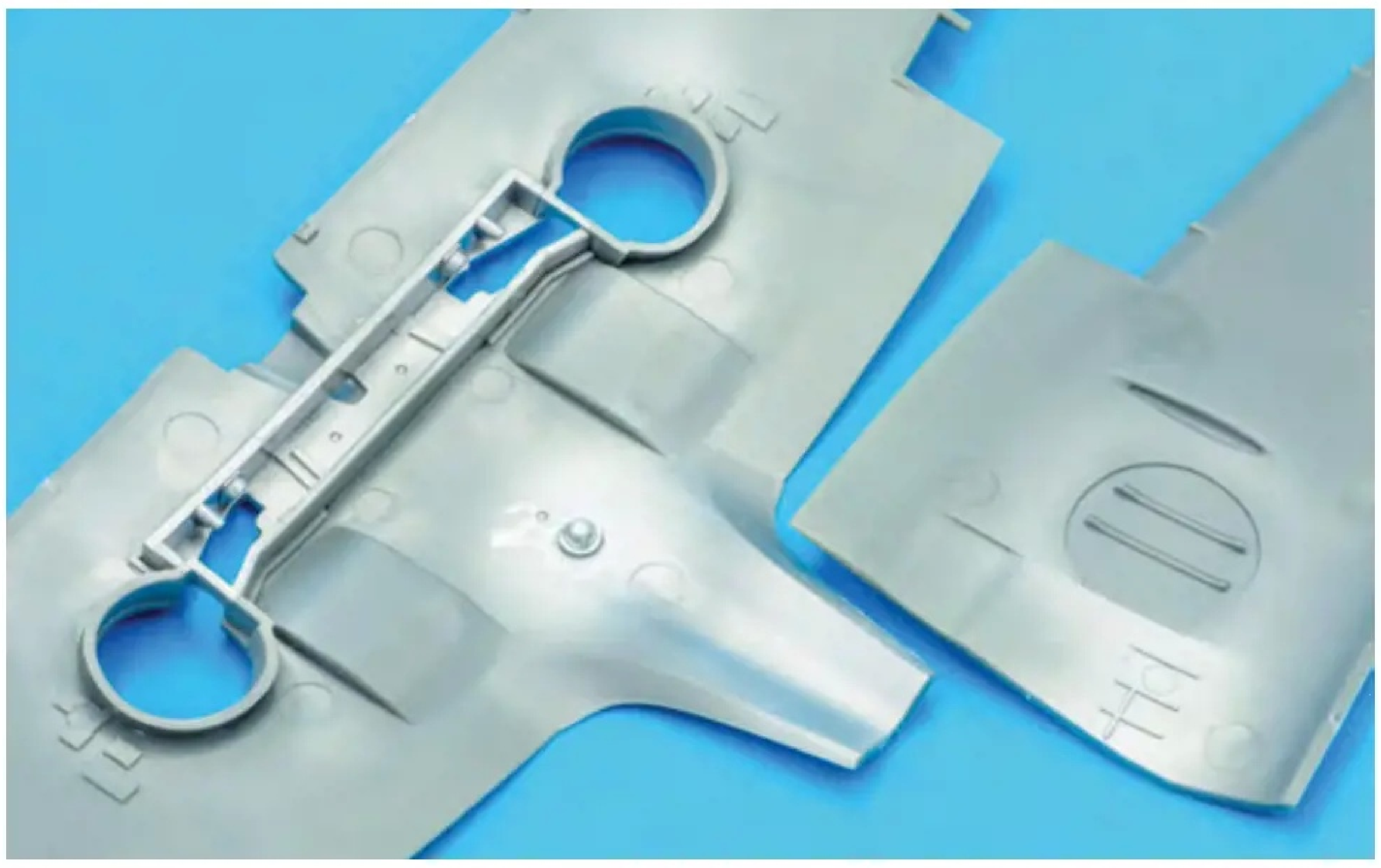
- RK855/FT-C, 43 Squadron (A Flight), Plt Off Alan G Edwards (Australia), Ravena, Italy, March-April 1945
- White 41-422, 5 Eskadrille, Royal Danish Air Force, Karup, mid-Jutland, Denmark, 1947
- SM 26 (ex PV189), Brustem Advanced Pilot School, Brustem, Belgium, 1952



▲ Different styles of tyre and hub are provided, along with parts for retracted undercarriage. Two styles of exhaust are also present on the runners.



▲ Basic painting of the cockpit starts with the aluminium and green areas being airbrushed. Note the rear bulkhead component, which was added before the fuselage was sprayed.



▲ Having assembled the wing interior, the inner undercarriage bay and wing spare received Aluminium, while the main wheel well and ceiling were treated with Medium Sea Grey.

applied to everything, followed by matt varnish. Next, the seat and its frame were mated, and the harness added before the completed items were fixed in the fuselage. Notably, the fit was excellent and once the cockpit parts had been secured, the fuselage halves were joined.

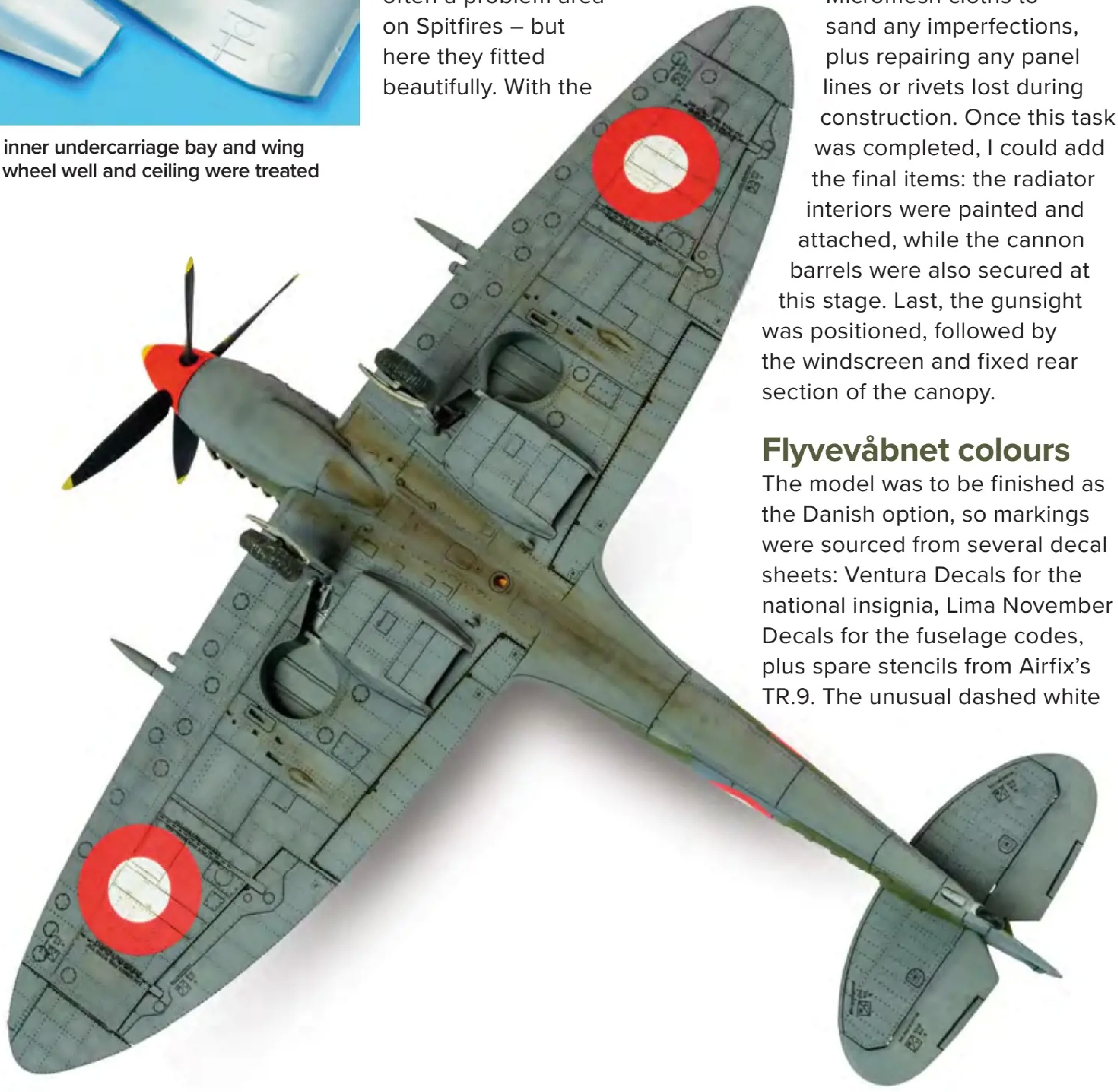
Root issues

The wings were addressed next, starting with the undercarriage bays, which are added to the lower half. Inboard sections were then painted Aluminium, while the outboard area received the underside colour of Mr. Hobby H335 Medium Sea Grey. Test-fitting the lower wing showed it was tight at the rear of the carburettor intake, and just needed the rear edge on the fuselage squaring with a file to achieve a neat join. The upper wing halves were then checked, and it was discovered the insert for the front of the starboard wing root didn't quite align with the rest of the fuselage, but it was tidied easily with a file and a near-perfect fit was achieved for both sides.

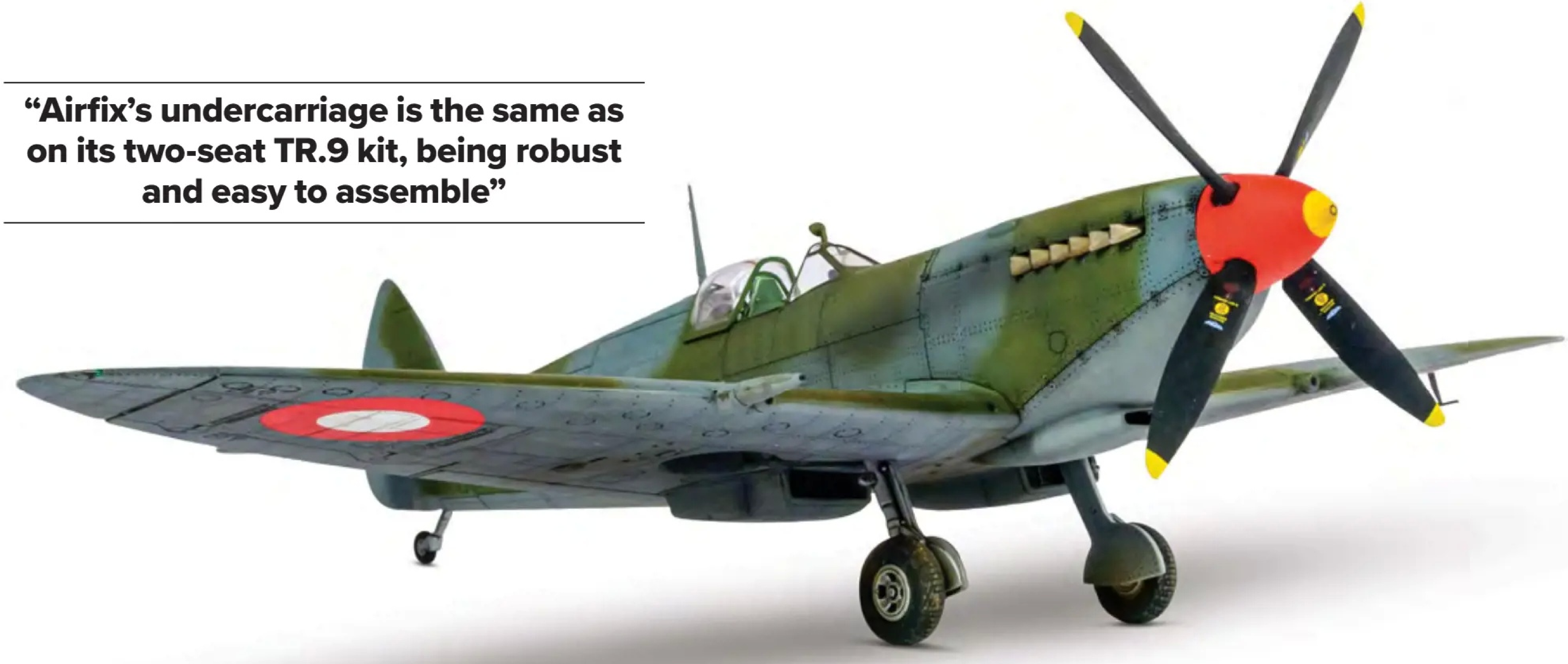
Control surfaces and horizontal stabilisers were then tackled; I particularly liked the engineering on the ailerons –these are often a problem area on Spitfires – but here they fitted beautifully. With the engine cowling attached, the bulk of the build was complete, with just a touch of Mr. Surfacer employed to neaten the lower fuselage seams and the join just ahead of the cockpit. At this stage I always spend time to ensure the model is well prepared for paint, using Micromesh cloths to sand any imperfections, plus repairing any panel lines or rivets lost during construction. Once this task was completed, I could add the final items: the radiator interiors were painted and attached, while the cannon barrels were also secured at this stage. Last, the gunsight was positioned, followed by the windscreen and fixed rear section of the canopy.

Flyvevåbnet colours

The model was to be finished as the Danish option, so markings were sourced from several decal sheets: Ventura Decals for the national insignia, Lima November Decals for the fuselage codes, plus spare stencils from Airfix's TR.9. The unusual dashed white

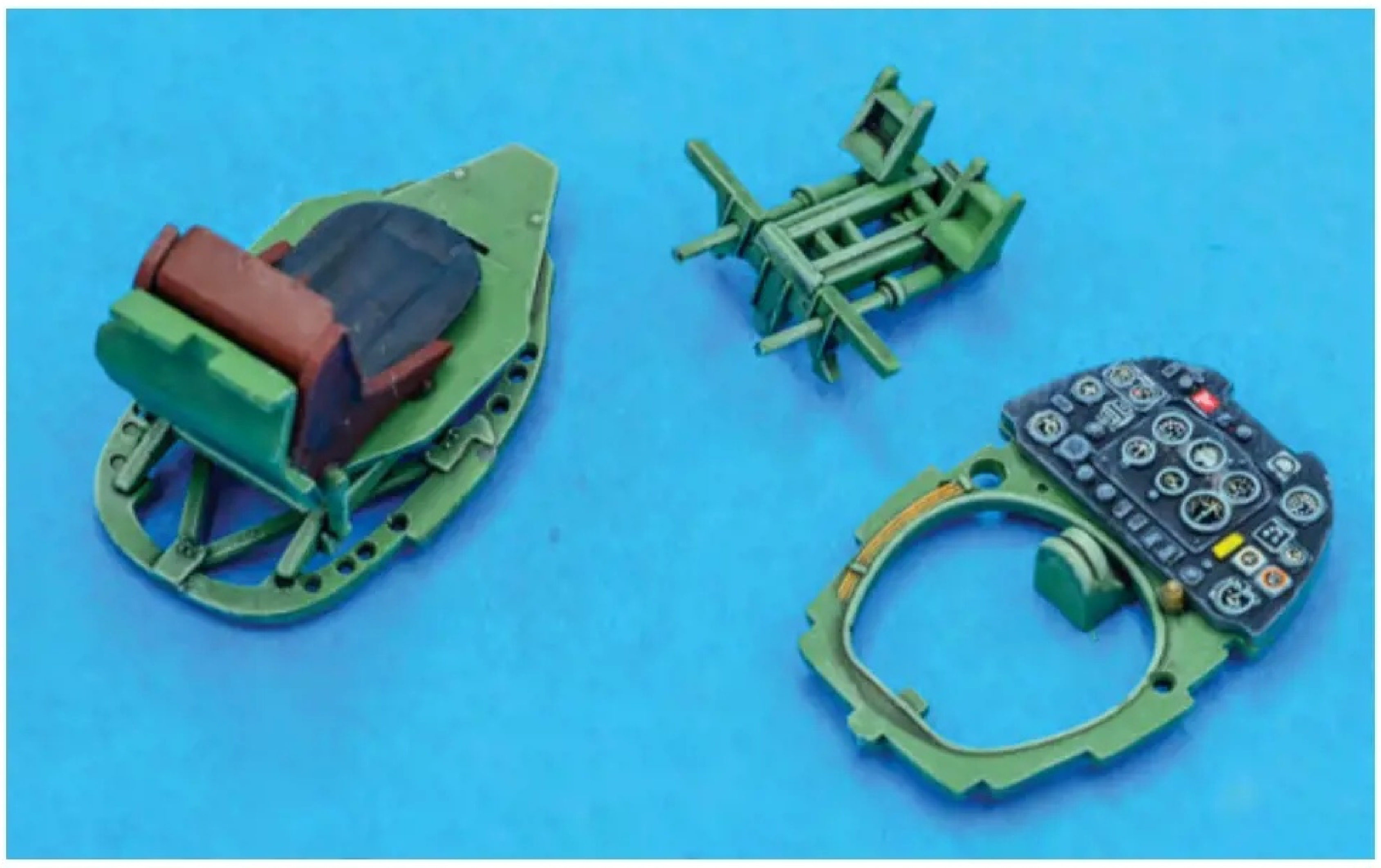


> **"Airfix's undercarriage is the same as on its two-seat TR.9 kit, being robust and easy to assemble"**

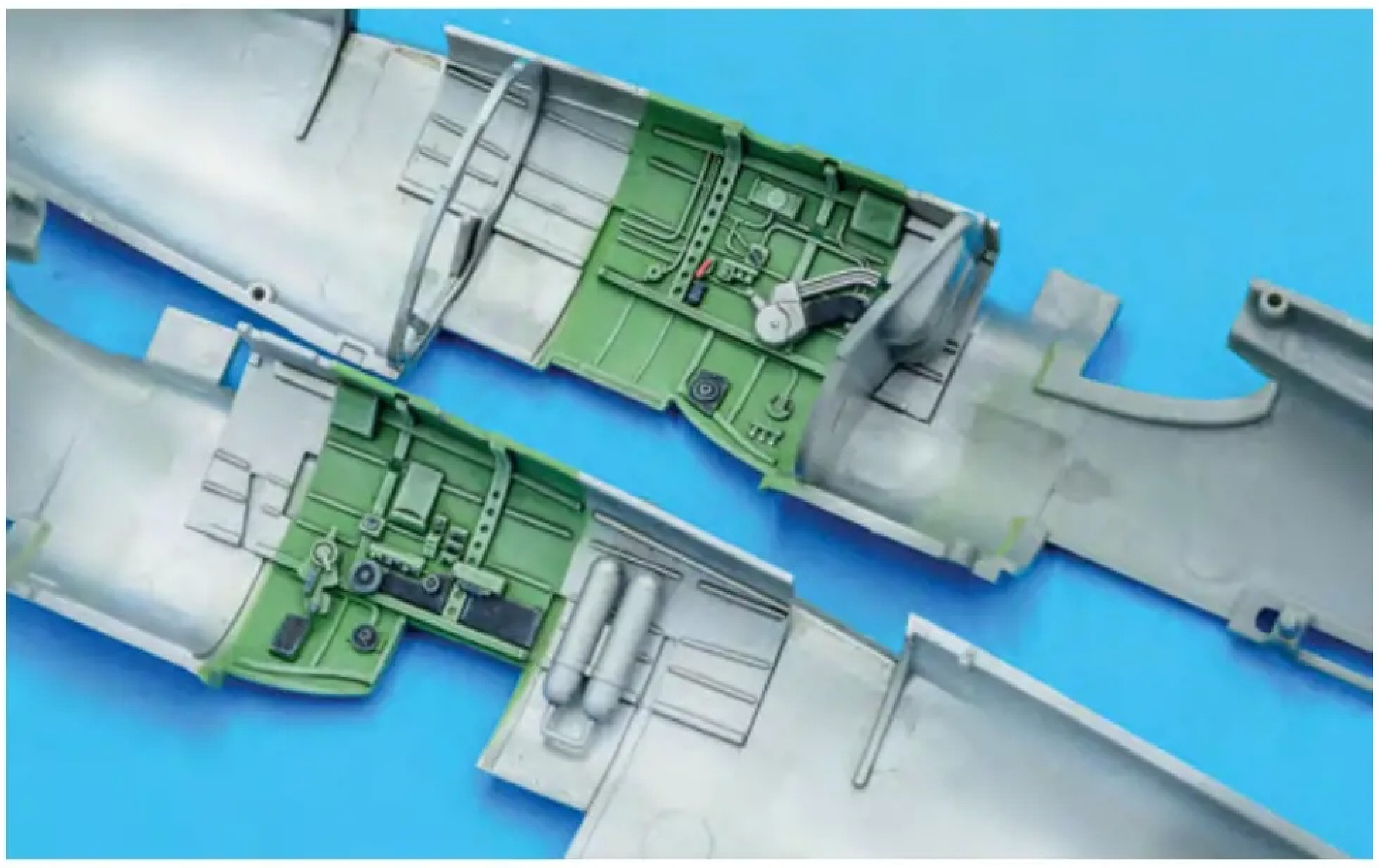


wing walkway lines were tricky to source, but eventually a set of 1/32 Fw 190 markings were found, which included dashed lines with the correct scale width. All Danish Spitfires were ex-RAF airframes and reference photos indicate they retained their original camouflage, although the pattern was altered in places. It's possible the aircraft were completely resprayed at handover, as there seems to be little evidence of overpainted markings, though it is possible changes to the fuselage green areas were partly to cover the old markings.

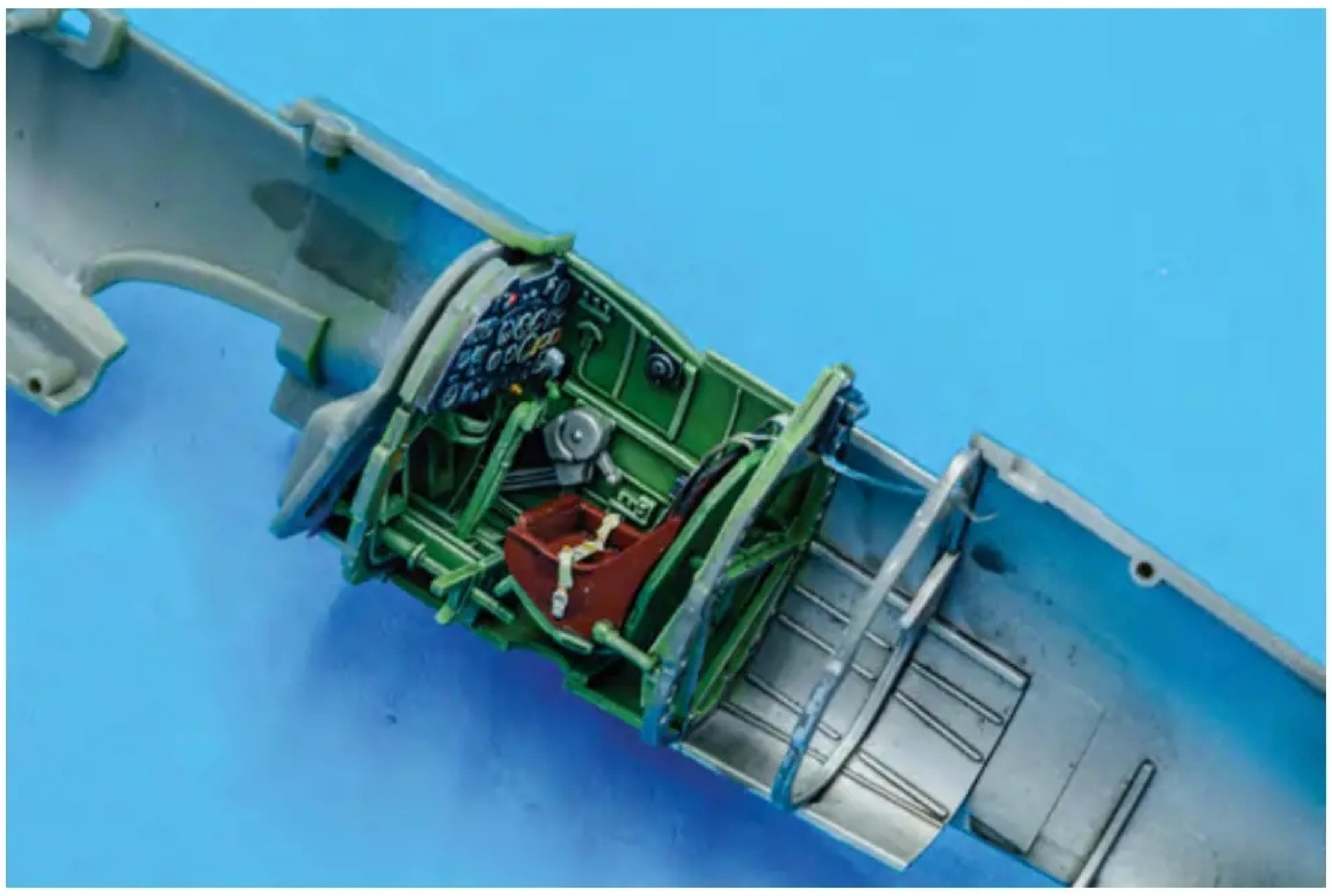
For the chosen aircraft, 41-422, the spinner was red with a yellow tip, with a small example of nose art on the port side engine cowling. Unfortunately, no suitable decals were available for this décor. This aircraft was built as Spitfire Mk.HFIXe serial RR252 and was flown by 124 Squadron, before being transferred to the ▶



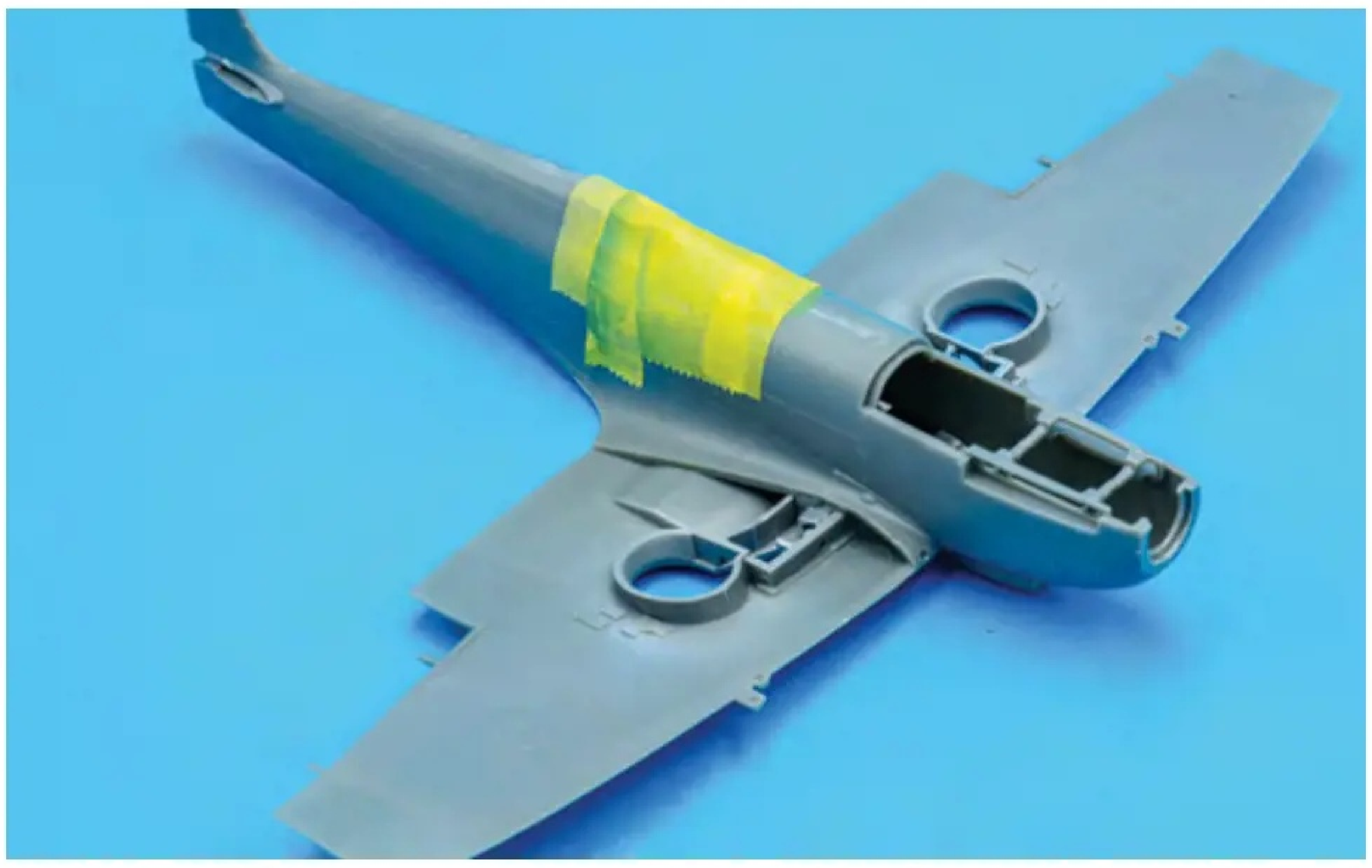
▲ Here, the main cockpit sub-assemblies have been completed, each part dry-brushed with lighter shades, then given a dark wash. Decals for the instrument panel were sourced from the spares box.



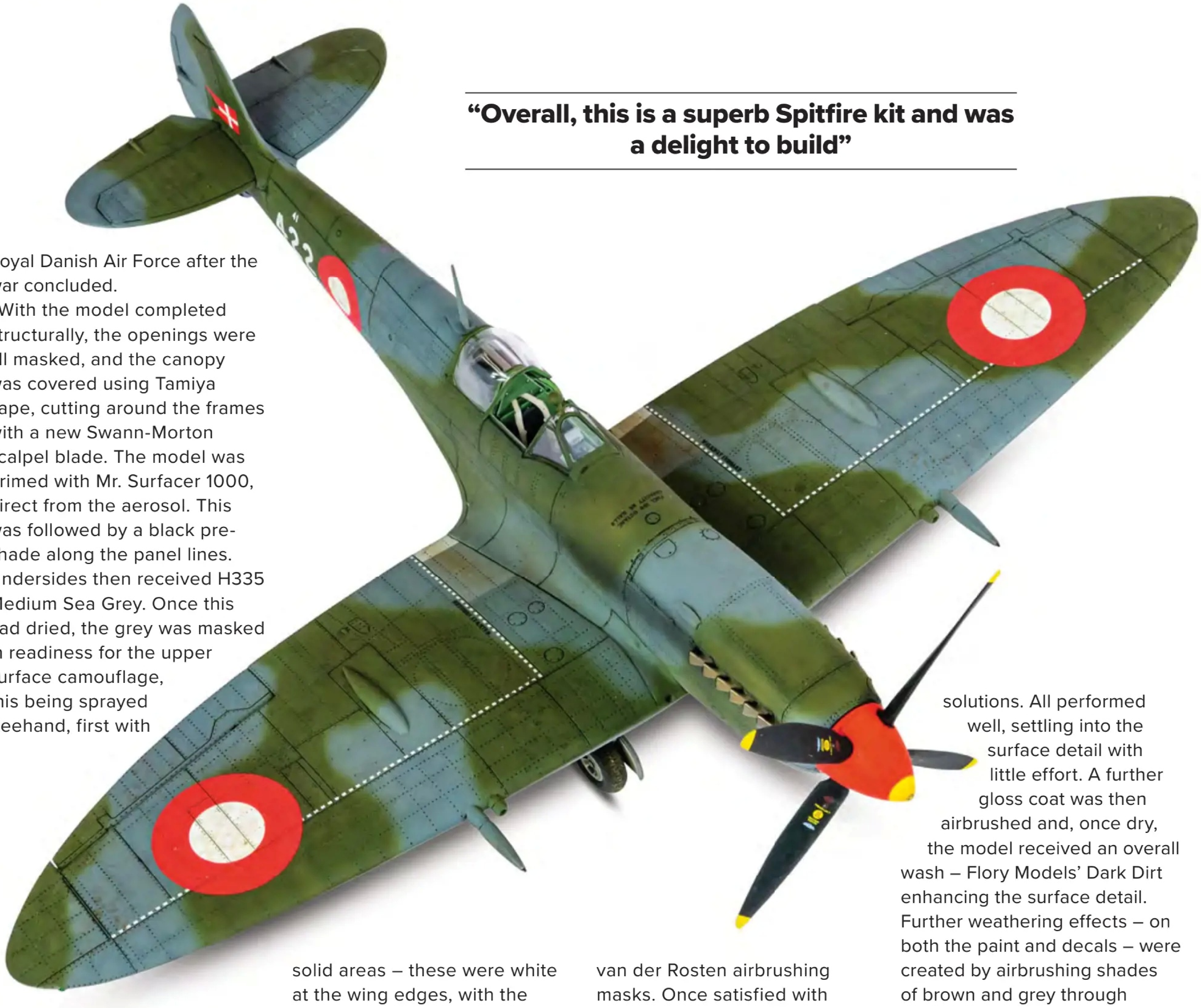
▲ The completed cockpit interior shows just how the moulded detail can be accentuated by careful painting and dry-brushing.



▲ Once inserted into the right-hand fuselage half, the cockpit looked the part and it's difficult to ask for any more in a 1/48 scale kit.



▲ Once the fuselage halves were together, they were mounted onto the one-piece lower wing. Note the pins inside the exhaust opening, which ensure the nose is held at the correct width – a neat touch.



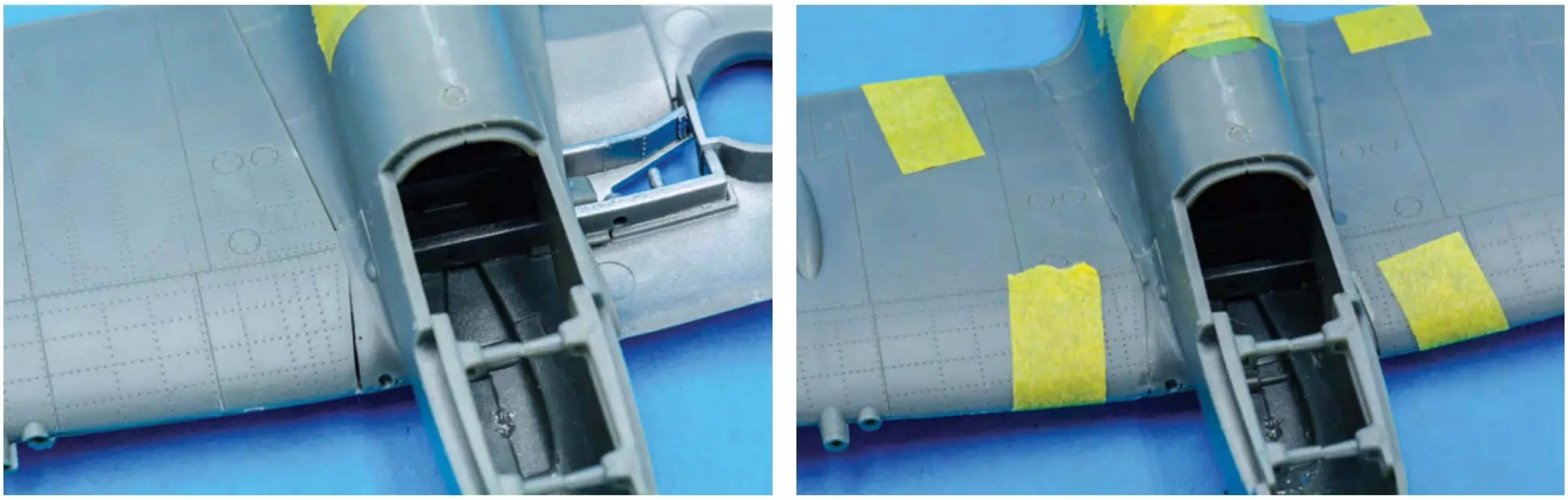
> **“Overall, this is a superb Spitfire kit and was a delight to build”**

Royal Danish Air Force after the war concluded.

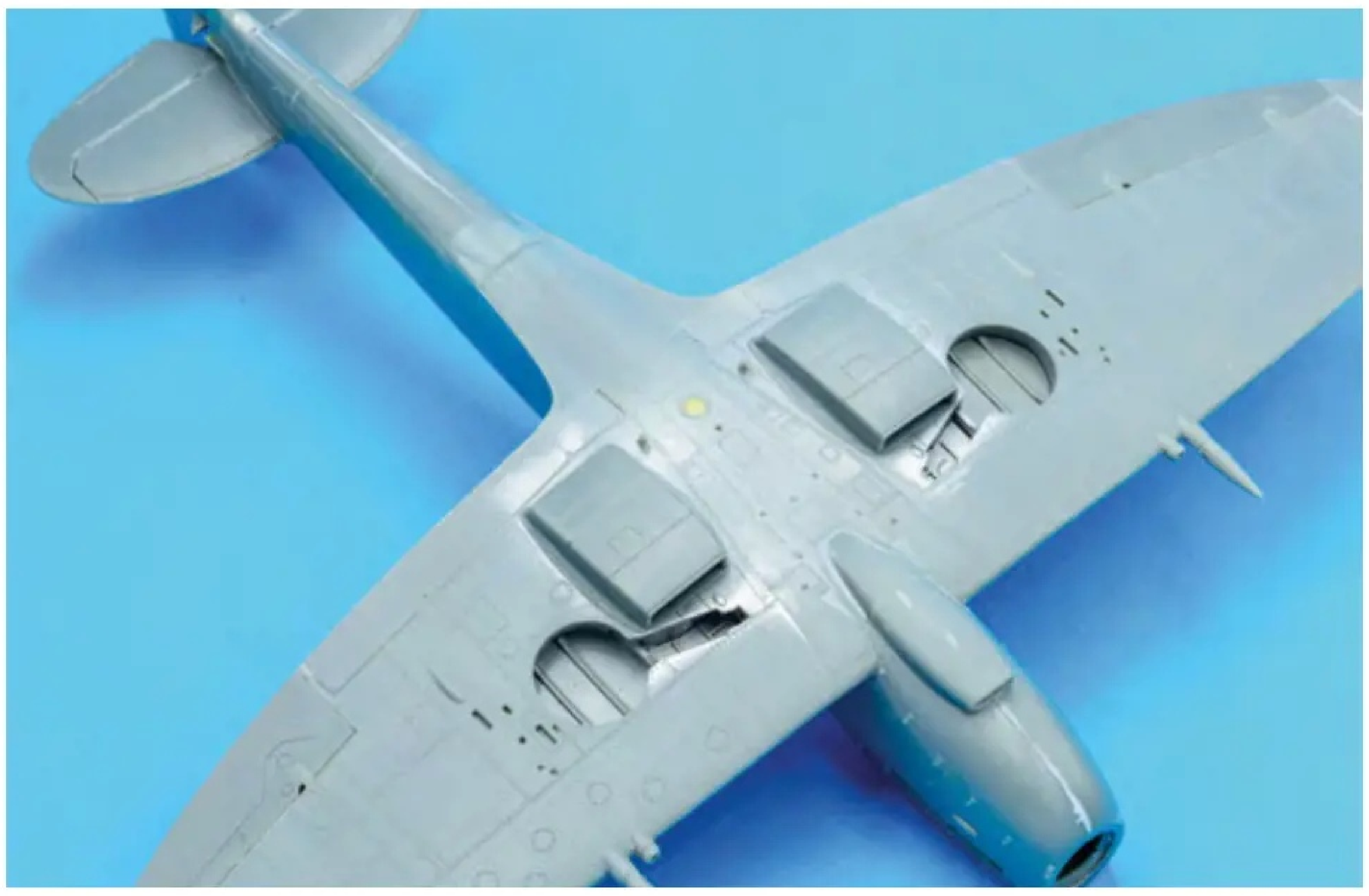
With the model completed structurally, the openings were all masked, and the canopy was covered using Tamiya Tape, cutting around the frames with a new Swann-Morton scalpel blade. The model was primed with Mr. Surfacer 1000, direct from the aerosol. This was followed by a black pre-shade along the panel lines. Undersides then received H335 Medium Sea Grey. Once this had dried, the grey was masked in readiness for the upper surface camouflage, this being sprayed freehand, first with XF-82 Ocean Grey, after which H330 Dark Green completed the scheme. As I didn’t have the kit decals for the wing walkways (I had decals for just the dashed lines), I masked and painted the solid areas – these were white at the wing edges, with the remainder being a grey tone, for which I used the underside Medium Sea Grey. The camouflage was then weathered with lighter and darker shades of the original hues, sprayed through several Artool and Uschi van der Rosten airbrushing masks. Once satisfied with the results, the paintwork was varnished with GX112 Super Clear III UV Cut Gloss.

Mixed markings

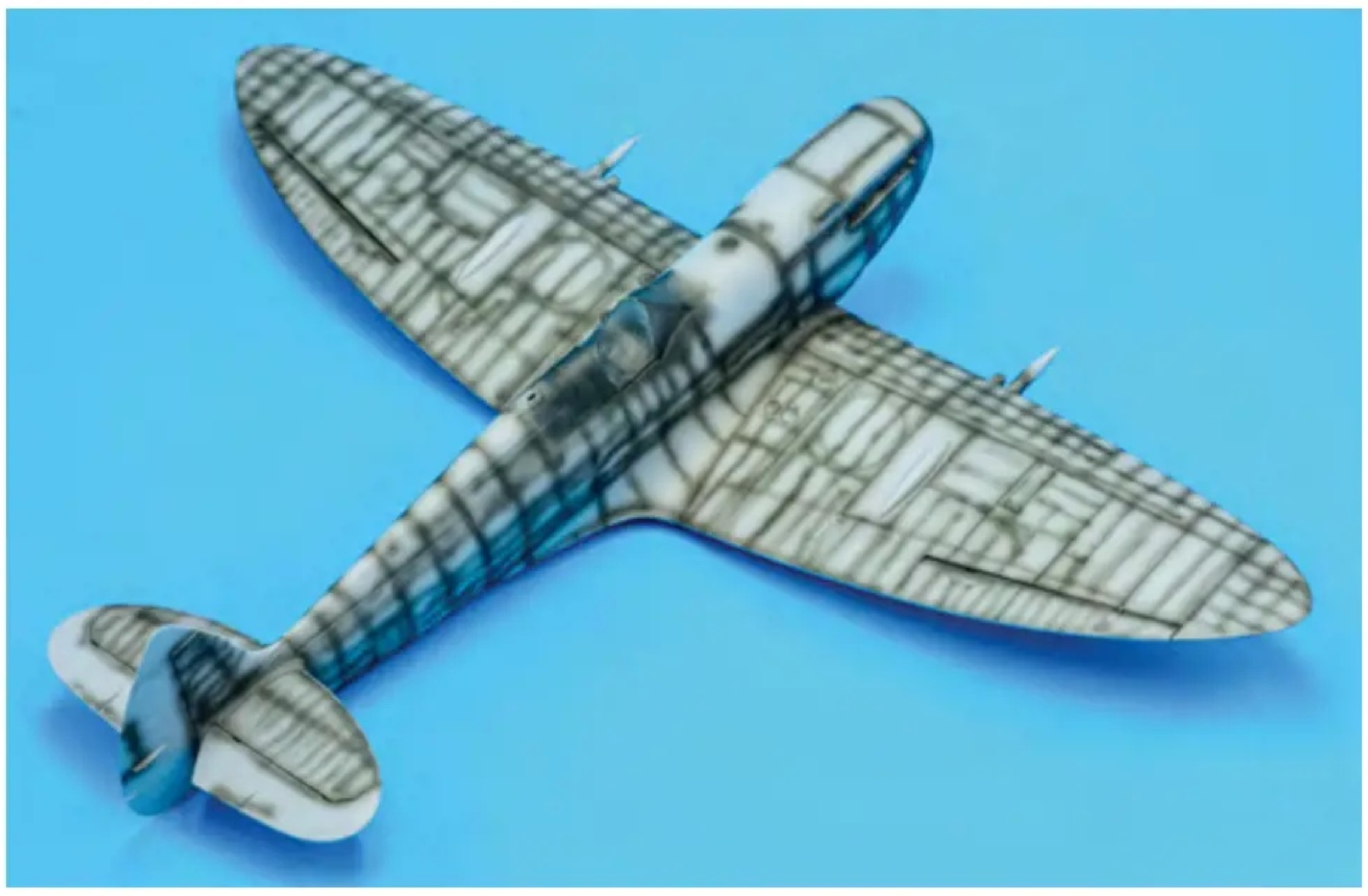
Decals came next, which were applied using Microscale setting solutions. All performed well, settling into the surface detail with little effort. A further gloss coat was then airbrushed and, once dry, the model received an overall wash – Flory Models’ Dark Dirt enhancing the surface detail. Further weathering effects – on both the paint and decals – were created by airbrushing shades of brown and grey through the spraying masks. Exhaust stains were also added at this point. The nozzles received an Aluminium base later, after which Alclad’s ALC-104 Pale Burnt Metal was applied, this being darkened with a misted ALC-



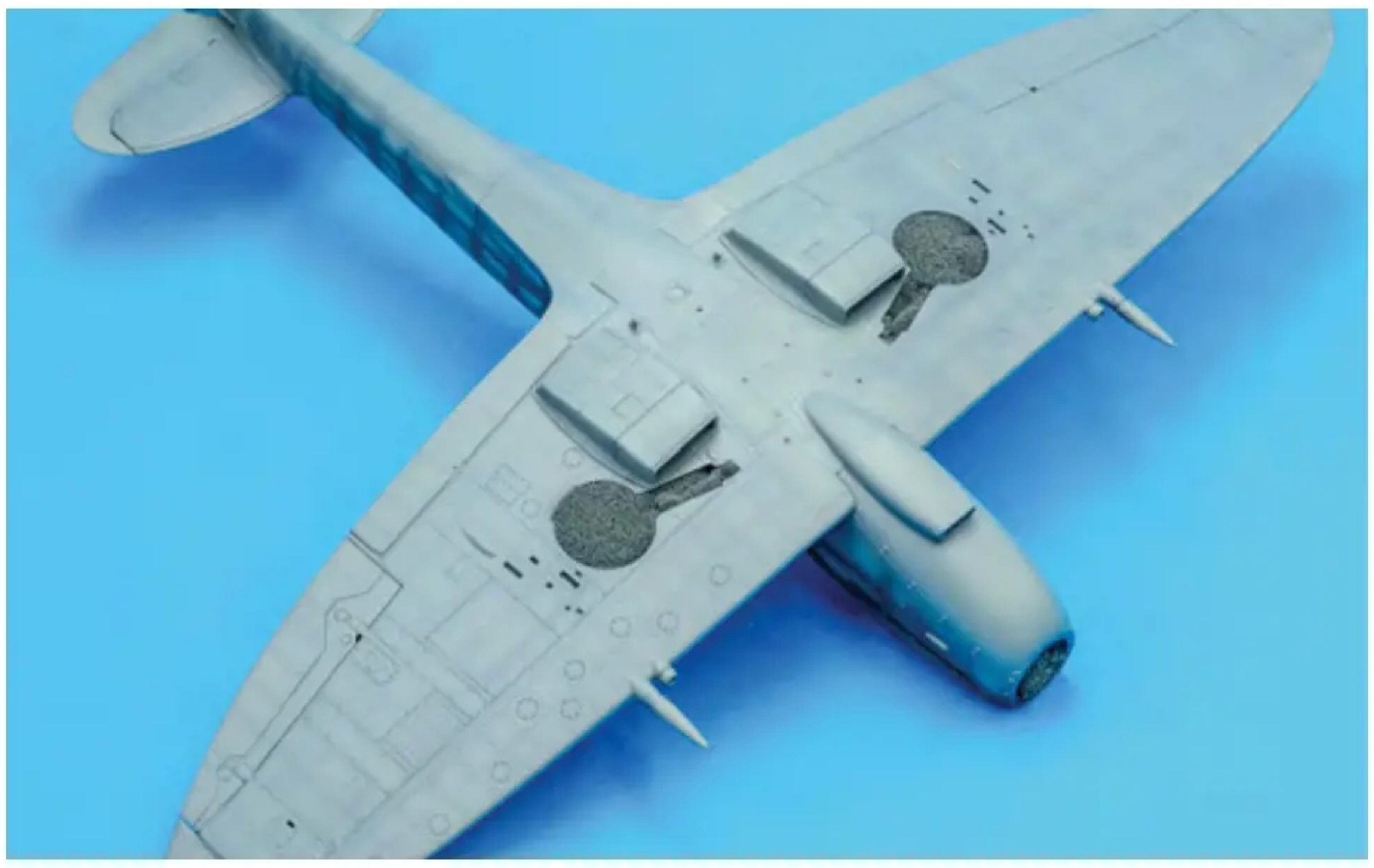
▲ Initial dry-fitting of the starboard upper wing section revealed a poor fit, with the part fouling against the wing root insert; a few swipes with a file remedied this problem, giving a perfect fit.



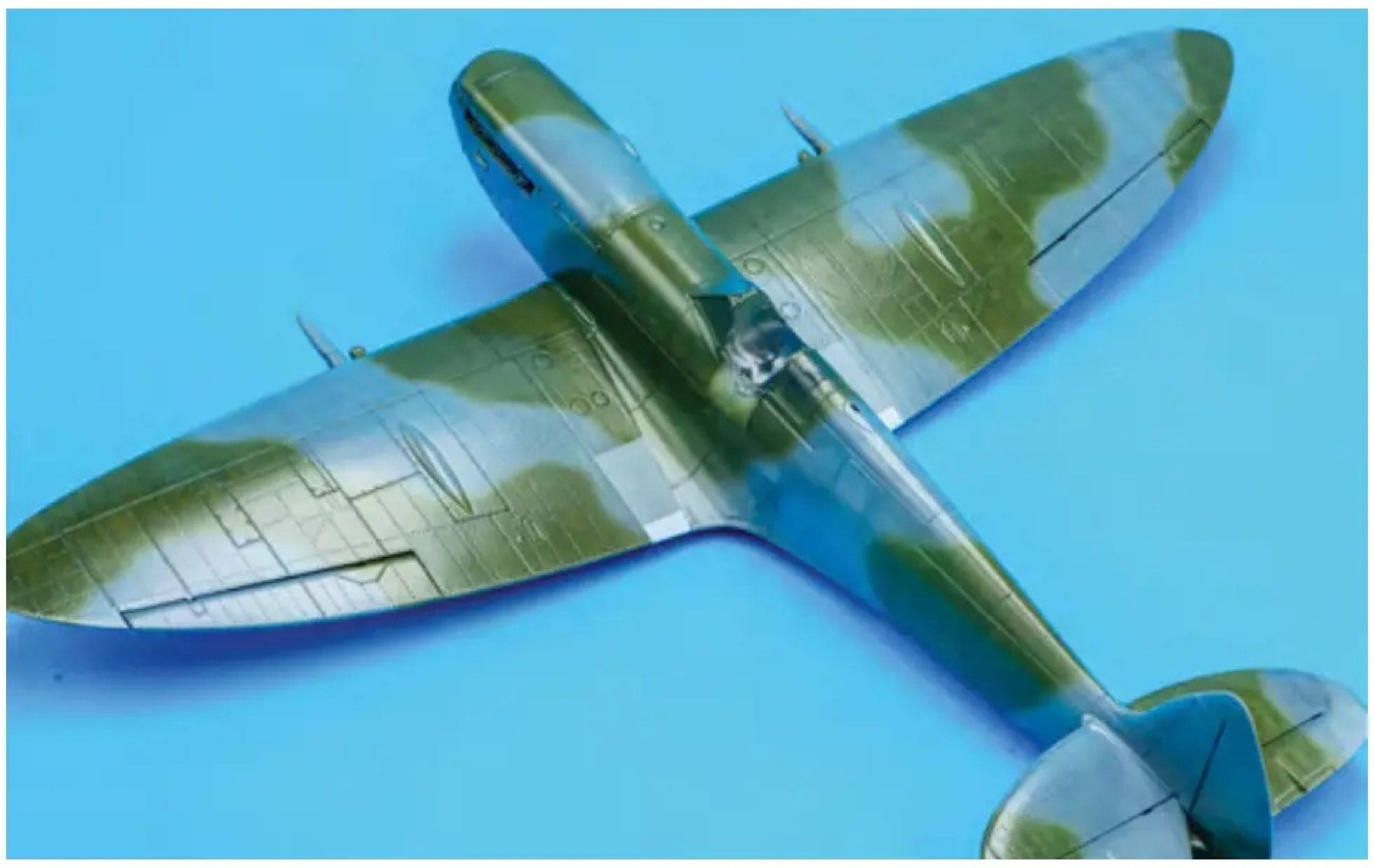
▲ Just a touch of filler was used under the nose and rear of the fuselage, which had the benefit of limiting the amount of sanding.



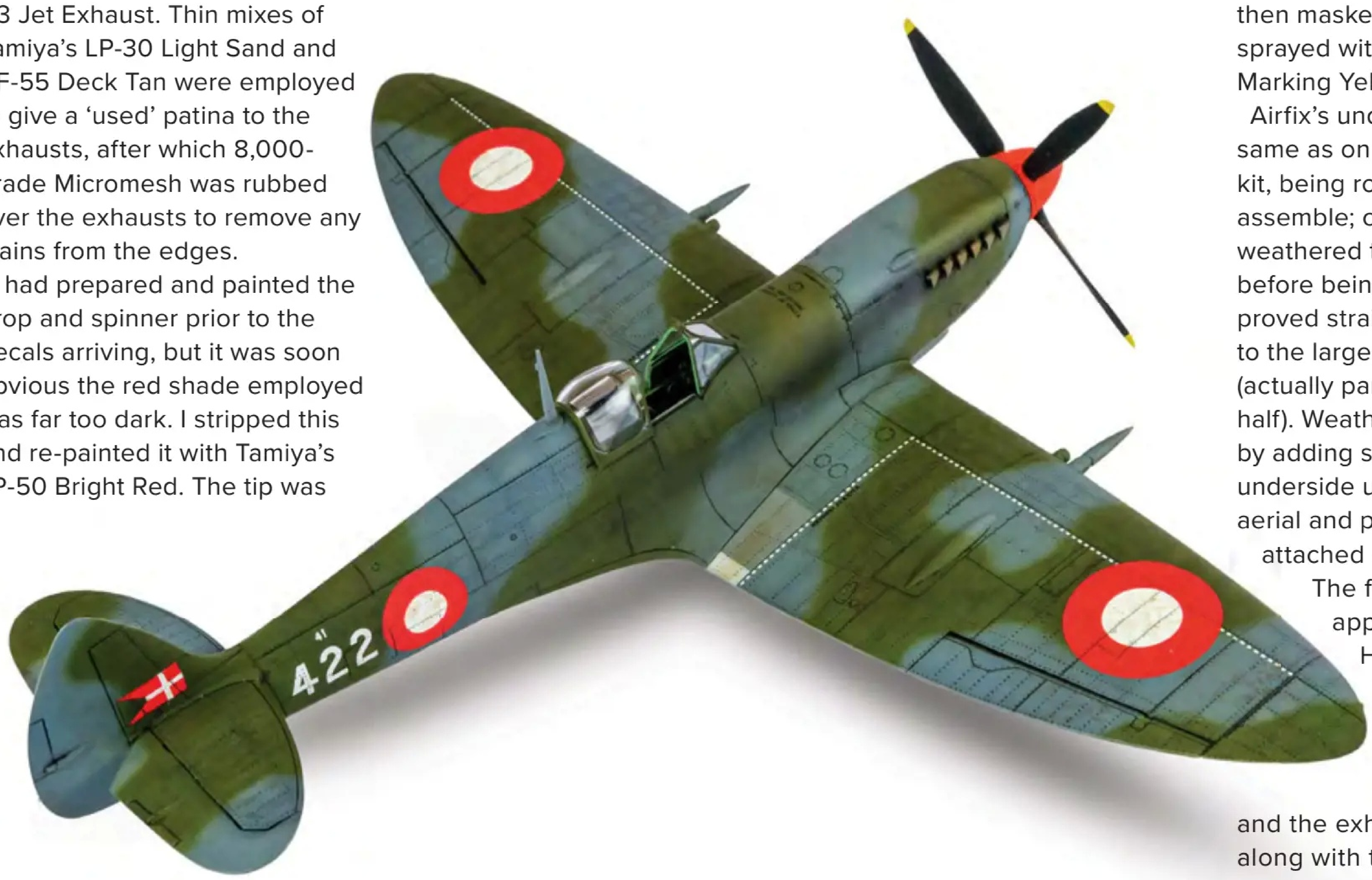
▲ After priming, black pre-shading was applied along panel and rivet lines on the upper and lower surfaces.



▲ The underside received an airbrushed coat of Medium Sea Grey, building the tonal depth gradually via a series of thin coats, so the pre-shade was still visible.



▲ Attention then turned to the camouflage pattern on the upper surfaces, which was airbrushed freehand, applying the lightest colour (Ocean Grey) first. Wing walkway anti-slip areas had to be masked and painted – these will be provided as decals in the production kit.

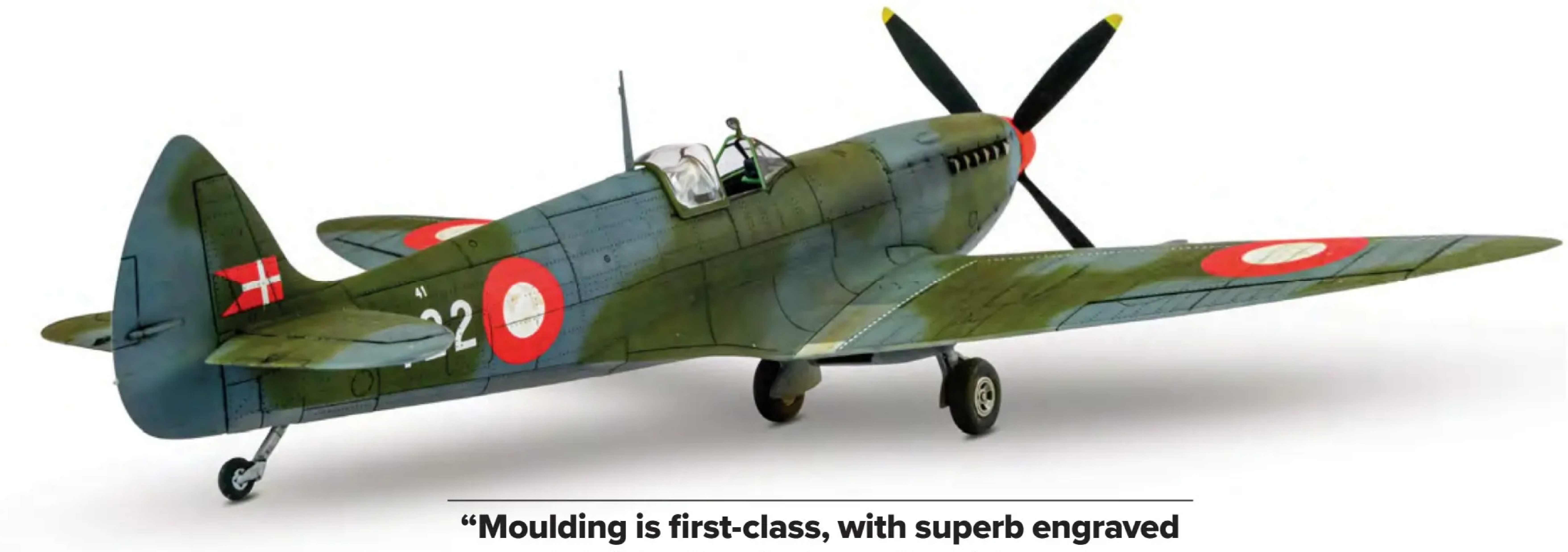


113 Jet Exhaust. Thin mixes of Tamiya's LP-30 Light Sand and XF-55 Deck Tan were employed to give a 'used' patina to the exhausts, after which 8,000-grade Micromesh was rubbed over the exhausts to remove any stains from the edges.

I had prepared and painted the prop and spinner prior to the decals arriving, but it was soon obvious the red shade employed was far too dark. I stripped this and re-painted it with Tamiya's LP-50 Bright Red. The tip was then masked, before being sprayed with Mr. Paint's MRP-122 Marking Yellow.

Airfix's undercarriage is the same as on its two-seat TR.9 kit, being robust and easy to assemble; once painted it was weathered to match the airframe, before being attached. This proved straightforward, thanks to the large locating socket (actually part of the fuselage half). Weathering was completed by adding stains to the fuselage underside using oil paints. The aerial and pitot tube were also attached and painted.

The final finish was applied using Mr. Hobby's GH101 Premium Topcoat Smooth Matt. All remaining masking was then removed and the exhausts were glued, along with the pilot's door ▶

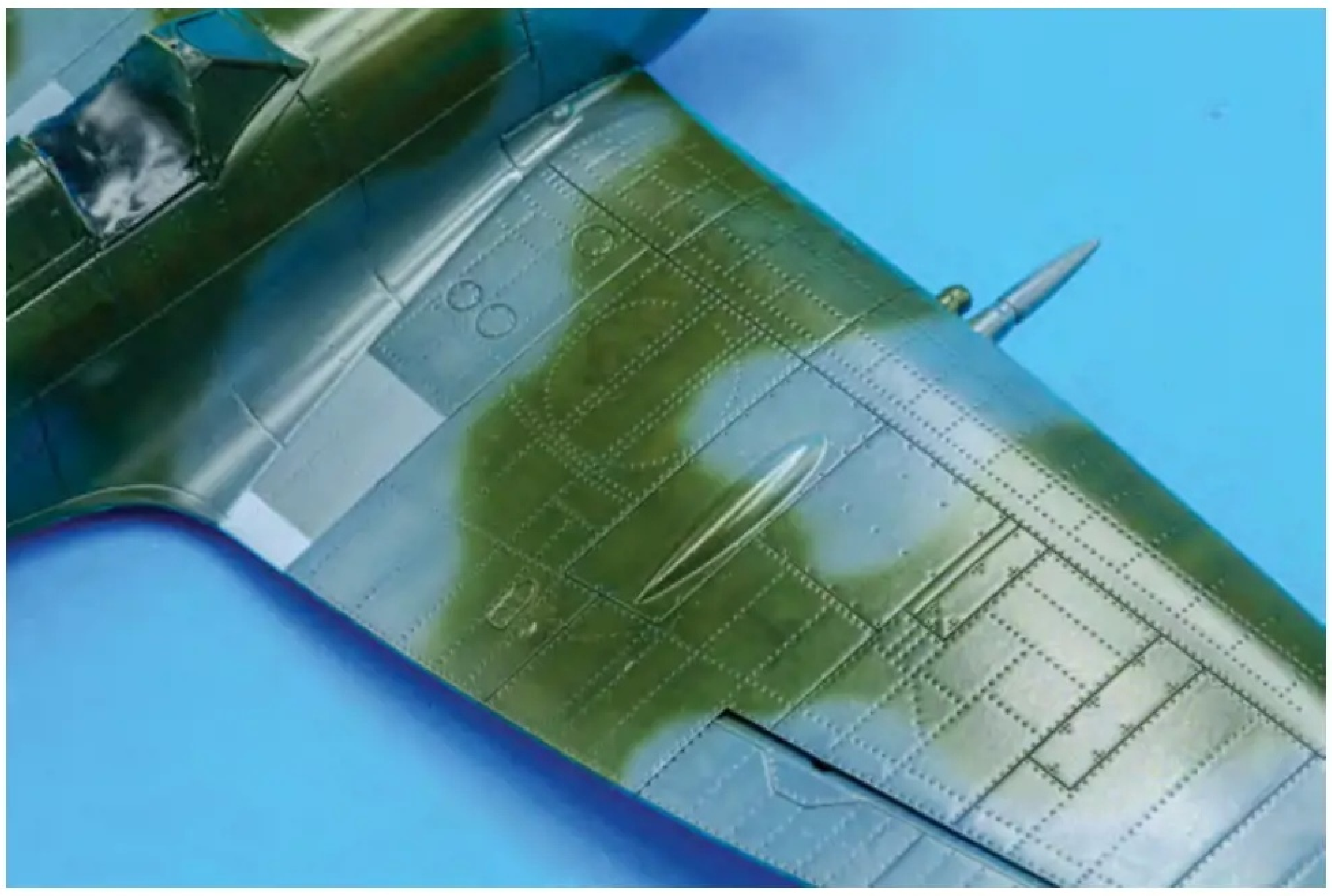


“Moulding is first-class, with superb engraved detail for the rivets on the airframe”

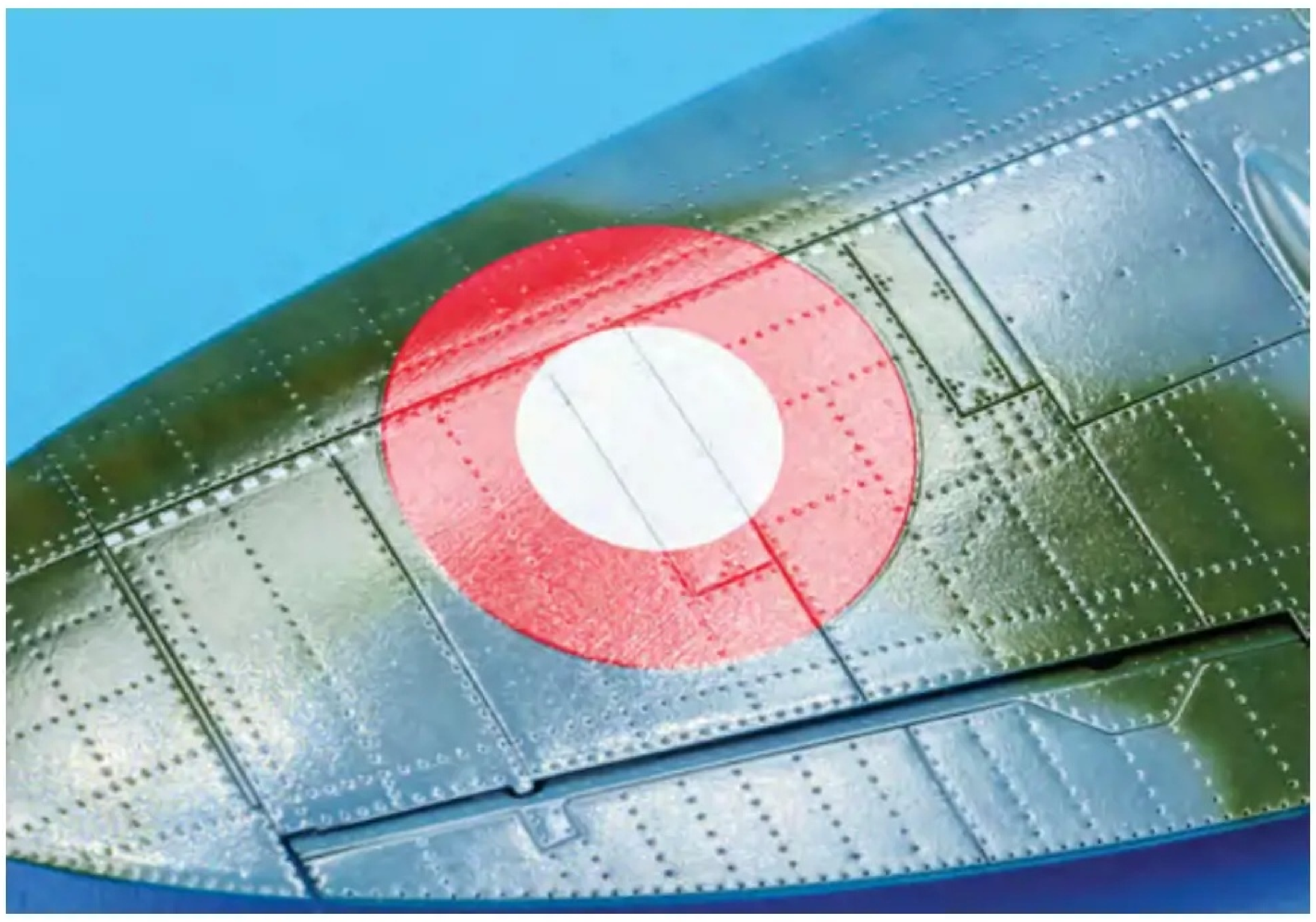
and rear-view mirror. The last job was to paint the wing-tip navigation lights and underside identification lamp with the appropriate clear colours.

Final reckoning

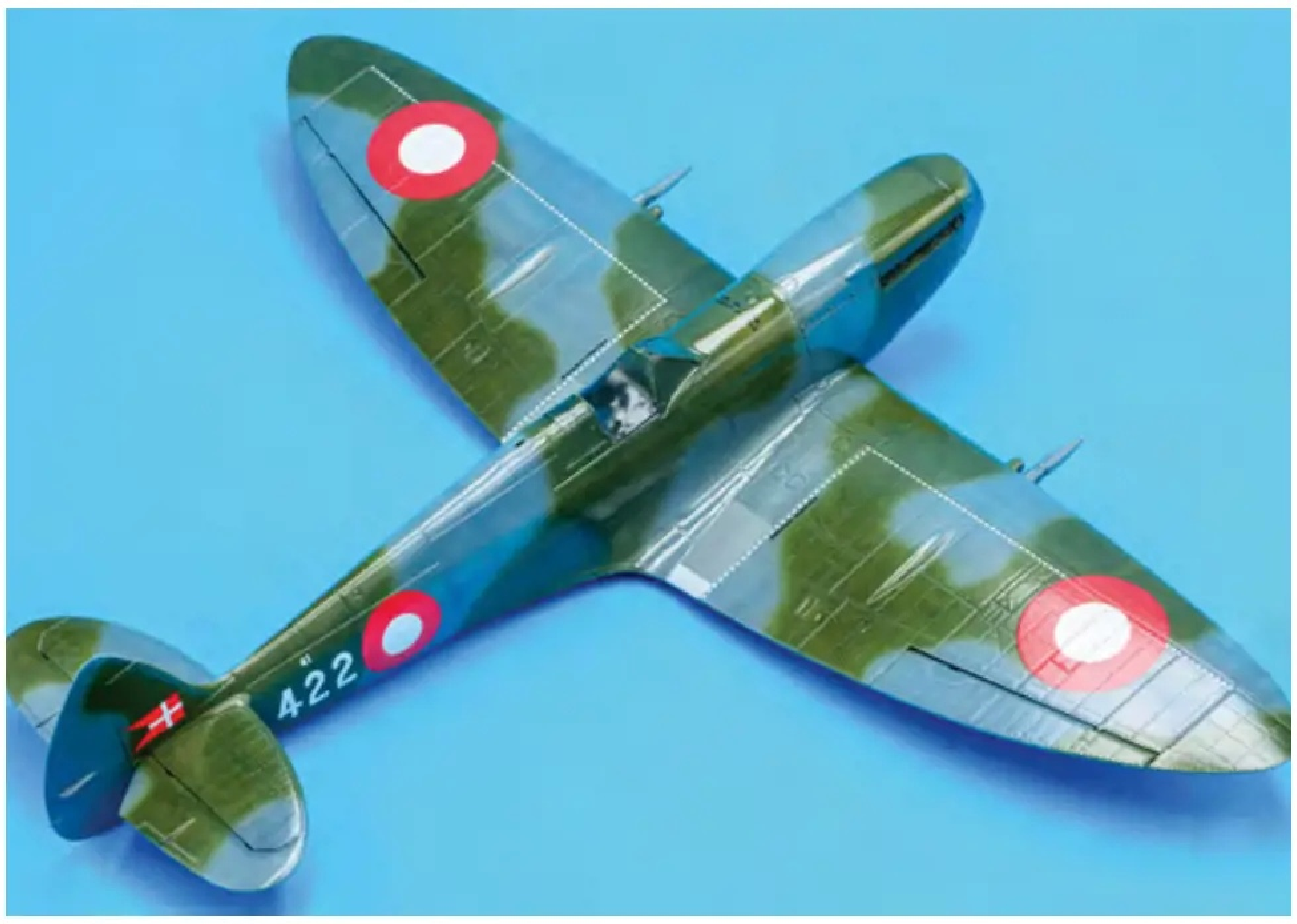
Airfix’s 1/48 Spitfire Mk.IXe was an enjoyable project; the parts fitted extremely well, as can be seen here, as there is virtually no filler visible. Detail is first-class and it’s indicative of the kit’s quality that, when posed alongside several Eduard Spitfires, its hard to tell which is which. Comparison with Eduard’s offerings is inevitable; perhaps the riveting is slightly more subtle on these kits, and the cowling bulge above the exhausts is more pronounced,



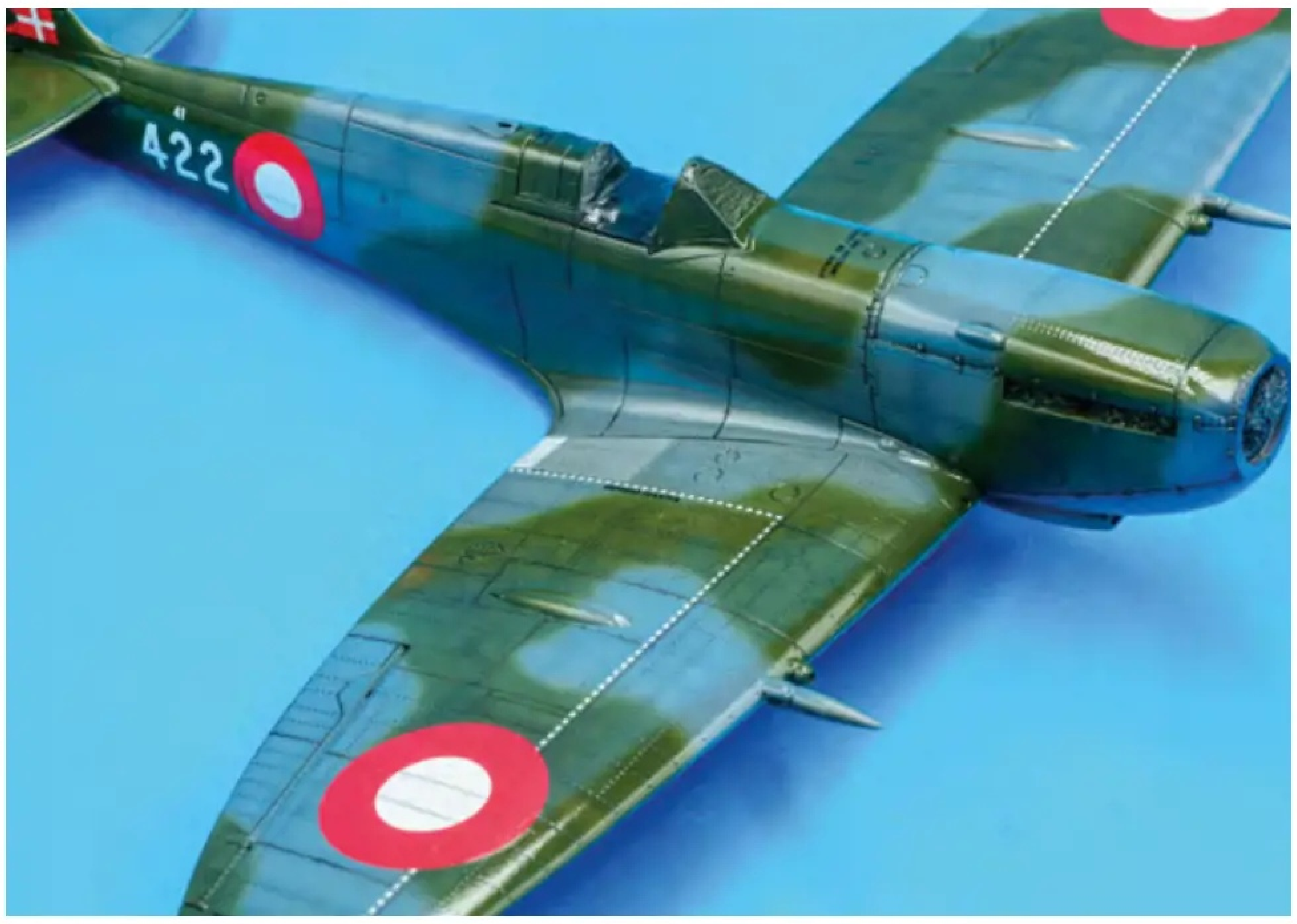
▲ The basic camouflage colours were aged by over-spraying lighter and darker shades of Ocean Grey and Dark Green through a paint mask.



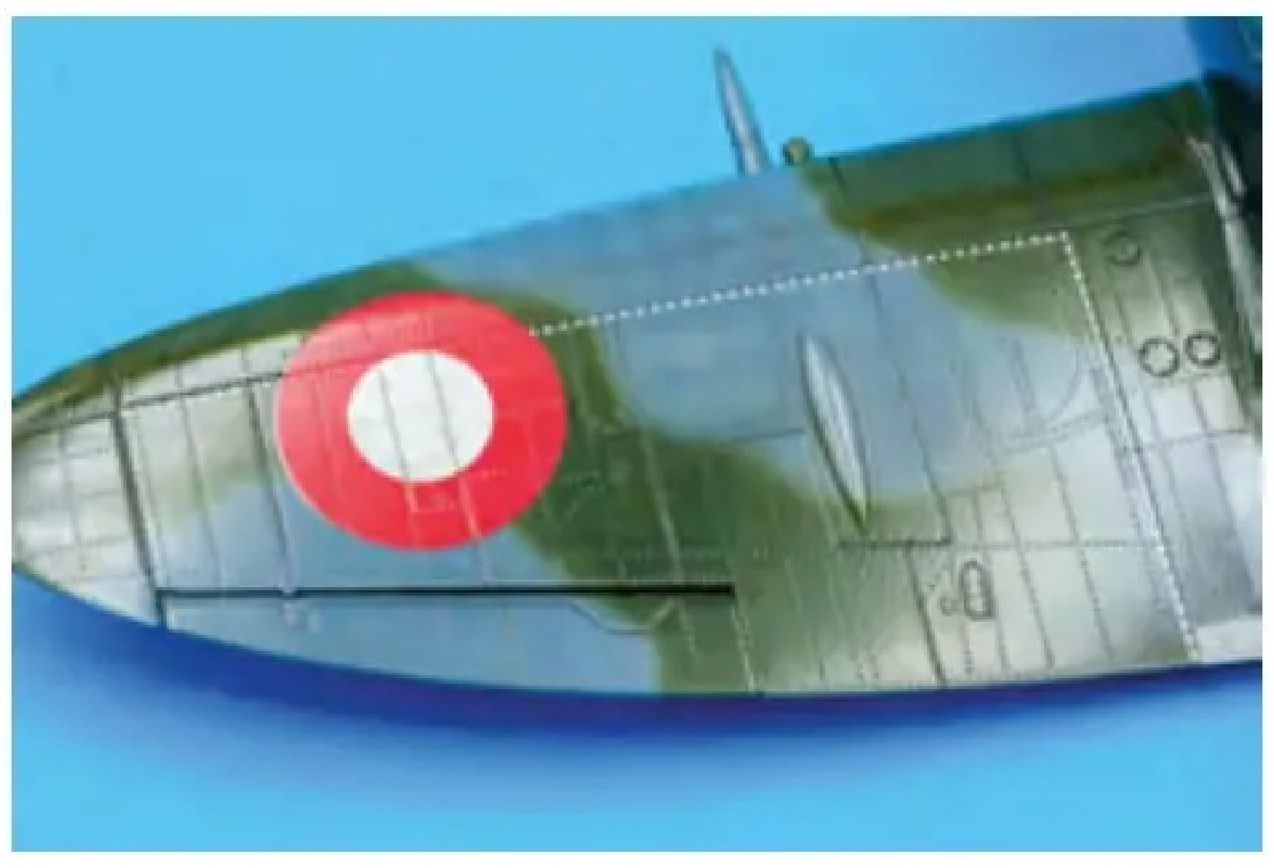
▲ With so much surface detail it is important to ensure the decals are well bedded into the panel lies and rivets. This was achieved by cutting the decals along the panel lines and pricking any rivets where they had not settled properly, then re-applying setting solution.



▲ The decals were sourced from several aftermarket sheets to create a Danish post-war Spitfire. While not entirely accurate – the nose art is missing – they are representative of the production markings.

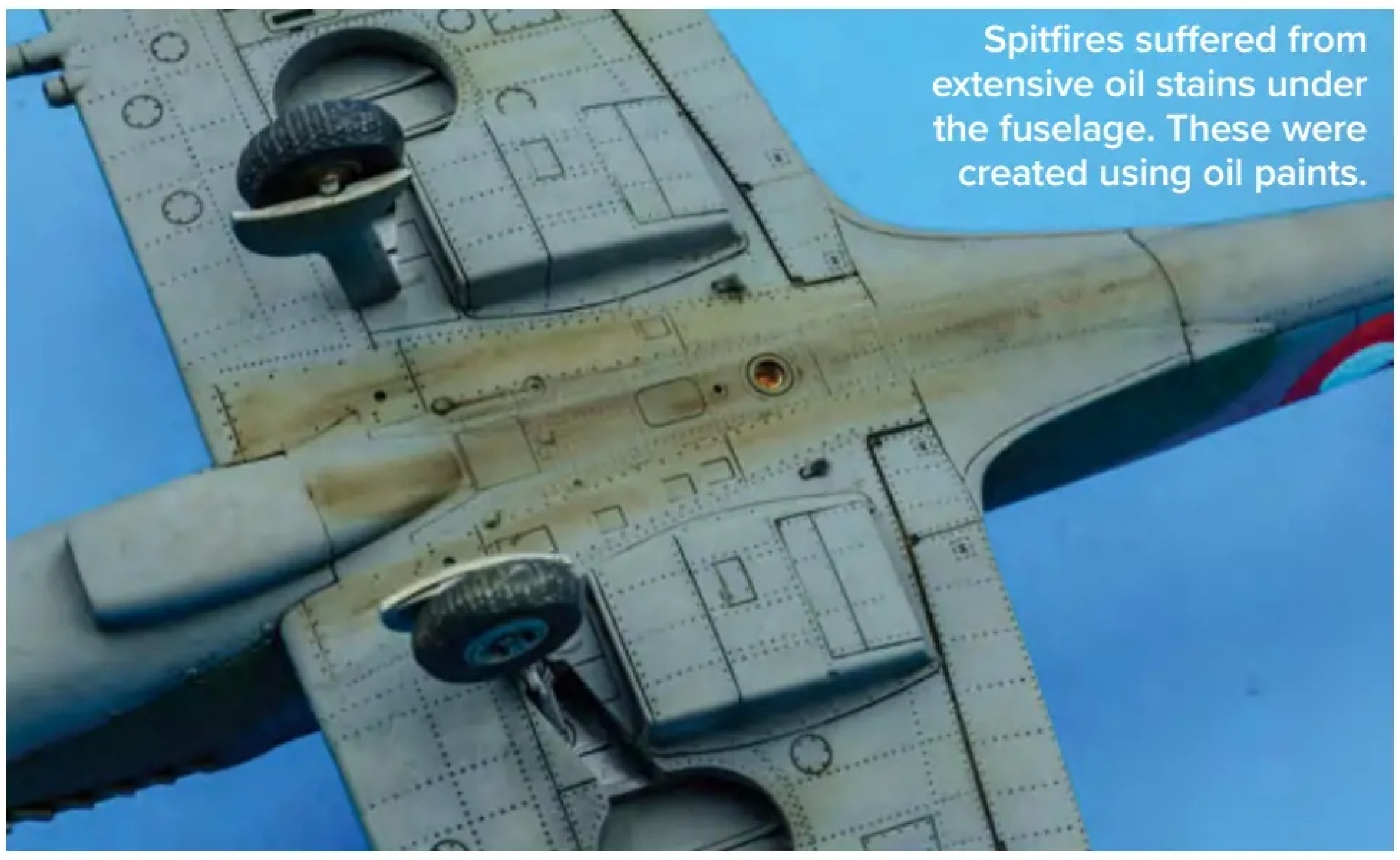


▲ Once the decals were completed, a Flory Models Dark Dirt wash accentuated the surface detail and helped to create further visual interest.

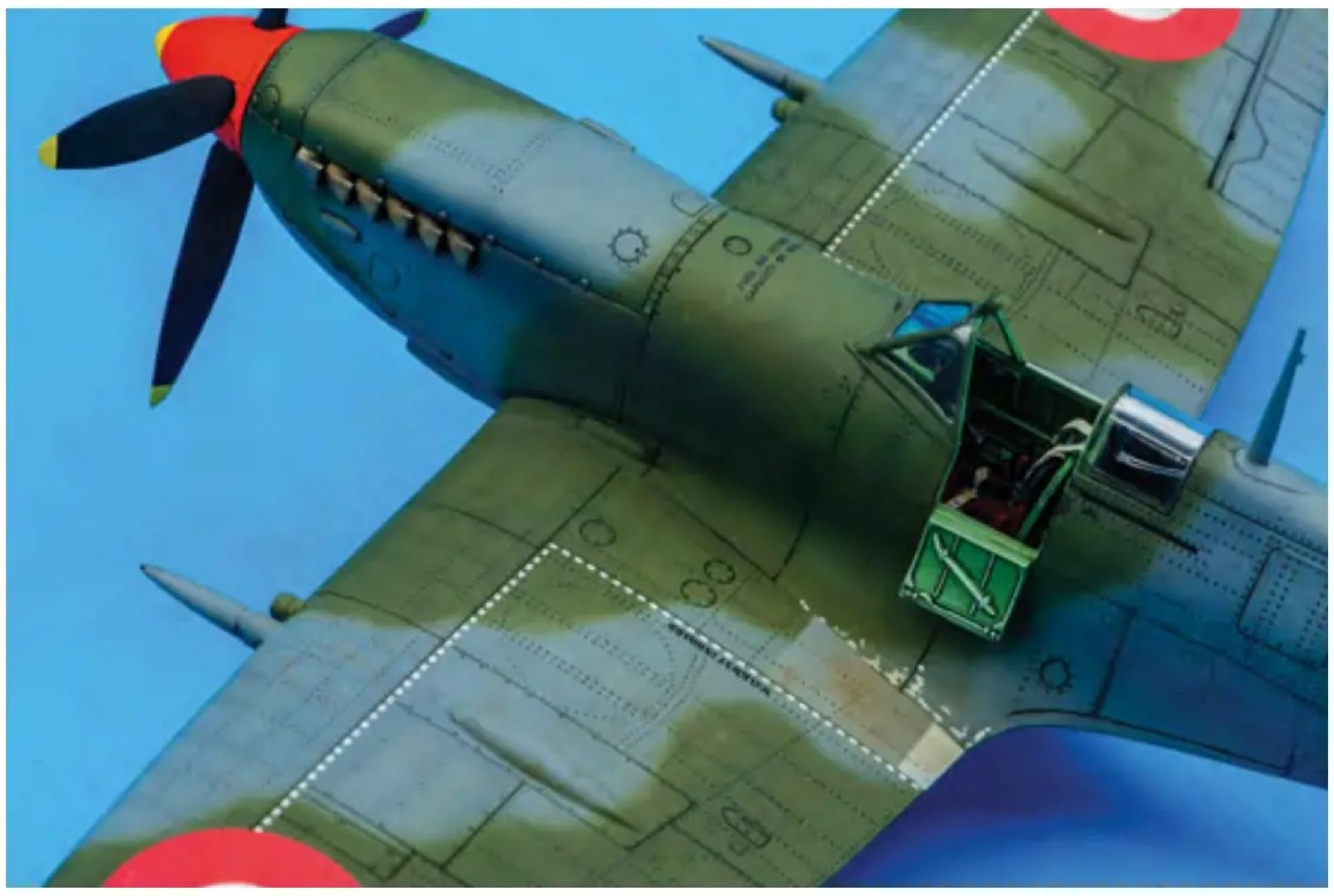


▲ **Here we can see the effect of the wash and the weathering on both the decals and camouflage, with panel lines and rivets having a consistent appearance.**

but the differences are minor. Known 'gotchas', such as the lower cowling fit and upper cowling shape (presented in halves) aren't an issue with Airfix's kit due to the different fuselage design and parts breakdown, making these aspects easier to build. Where Eduard's kit does score is the way it's designed to make a range of Mk.IX sub-types – providing a basic fuselage with different wings and other parts – which, on first impressions, doesn't seem possible with the Airfix kit, so we will have to see how the company tackles other versions in the future. Overall, this is a superb Spitfire kit and was delightful to build. AMW



Spitfires suffered from extensive oil stains under the fuselage. These were created using oil paints.



◀ **With the final matt finish applied, the pilot's door could be attached, along with the opening section of the canopy and the exhausts.**

MATERIALS AT A GLANCE

Alclad II (https://alclad2.com)
ALC-104 Pale Burnt Metal
ALC-113 Jet Exhaust

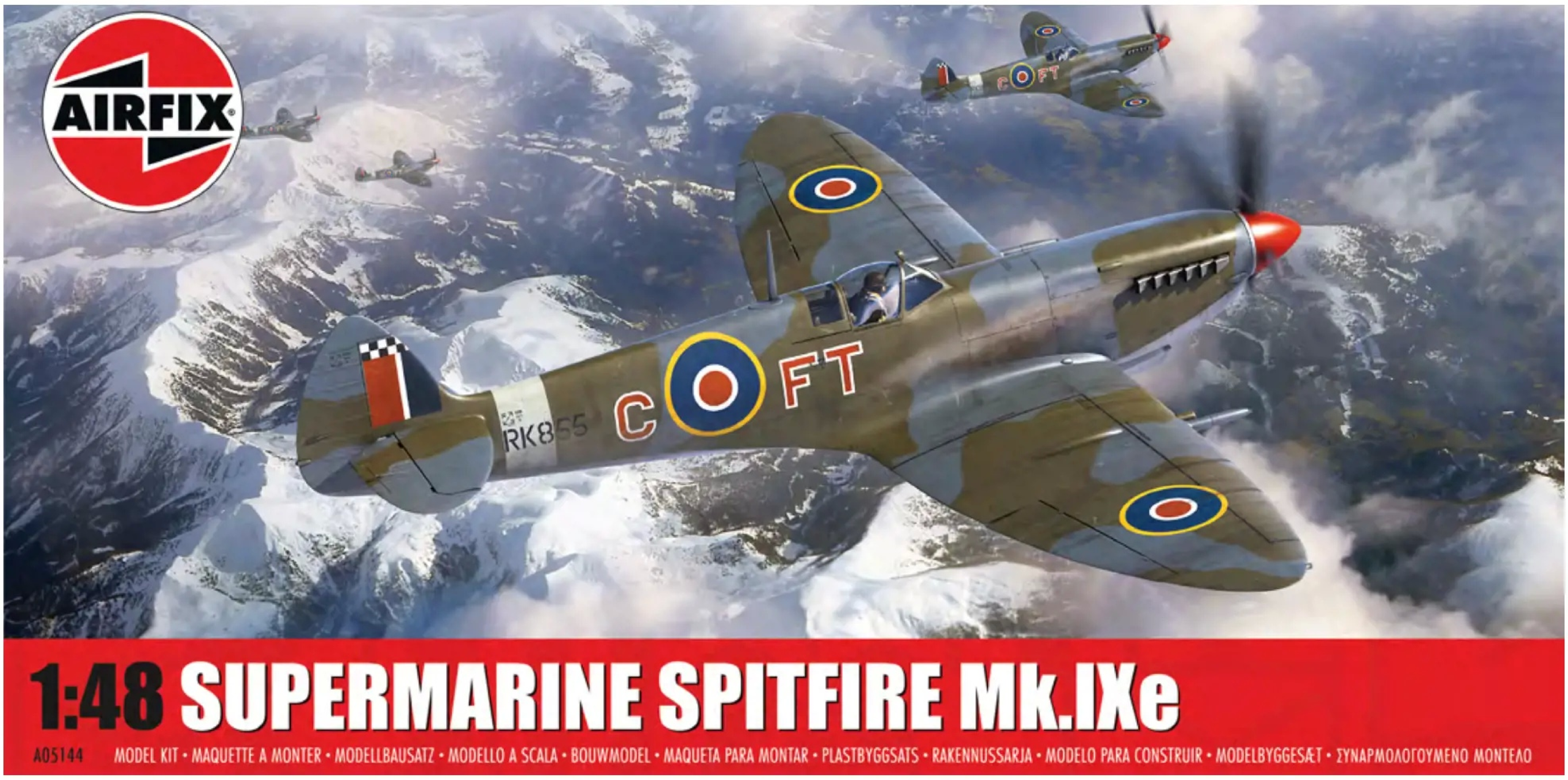
Flory Models (www.florymodels.org)
Dark Dirt wash

Tamiya (www.hobbyco.net)
XF-16 Aluminium
XF-55 Deck Tan
XF-71 Cockpit Green
XF-82 Ocean Grey
LP-30 Light Sand
LP-50 Bright Red

Mr. Hobby/Color (www.albionhobbies.com)
GH101 Smooth Matt Premium Topcoat
GX112 UV Cut Gloss varnish
H335 Medium Sea Grey
H330 Dark Green
Mr. Surfacer 1000

MRP (www.mrpaint.sk)
MRP-122 Marking Yellow

Win! A SPITFIRE KIT AND BOOK BUNDLE!


AIRFIX
C FT
RK855
1:48 SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE Mk.IXe
A05144
MODEL KIT • MAQUETTE A MONTER • MODELLBAUSATZ • MODELLO A SCALA • BOUWMODEL • MAQUETA PARA MONTAR • PLASTBYGGSATS • RAKENNUSSARJA • MODELO PARA CONSTRUIR • MODELBYGGESÆT • ΣΥΝΑΡΜΟΛΟΓΟΥΜΕΝΟ ΜΟΝΤΕΛΟ

Win fantastic kit and book bundle prizes worth more than **£220** in total, courtesy of Key Publishing and Airfix

Key Publishing has teamed up with Airfix to offer three lucky readers the chance of winning a new-tool 1/48 Spitfire Mk.IXe, a limited-edition 1/72 Spitfire IXc Starter Set and the *Spitfire Aces* reference book.

How to enter

To enter this exclusive competition, simply visit www.keymodelworld/competitions and complete the online entry form.

SCAN TO ENTER

Didn't win or want to know more about Airfix's products?

Visit: https://uk.airfix.com

The closing date for this competition is Friday, January 9, 2026. Winners will be notified by Friday, January 16, 2026. For full terms and conditions, please visit the KeyModelWorld website.

SPITFIRE ACES
TONY HOLMES

AIRFIX
MALCS MODELS OF ILKESTON
Key Model World LIVE
9R J
MA621
LIMITED EDITION
1:72 SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE Mk.IXc
8+

Name It!

Nameplates for Models

26 sizes - 20 fonts - 36 finishes
£3.50 to £6.50 including engraving
Send now or email for a catalogue to:
Name It!
12 Savay Lane, Denham Green, Denham,
Bucks. UB9 5NH or
Telephone 01895 832757
Email: Nameitplates@gmail.com
www.nameitplates.co.uk

Name It!
Nameplates for Models
Choose A Font
Choose A Finish
Borders

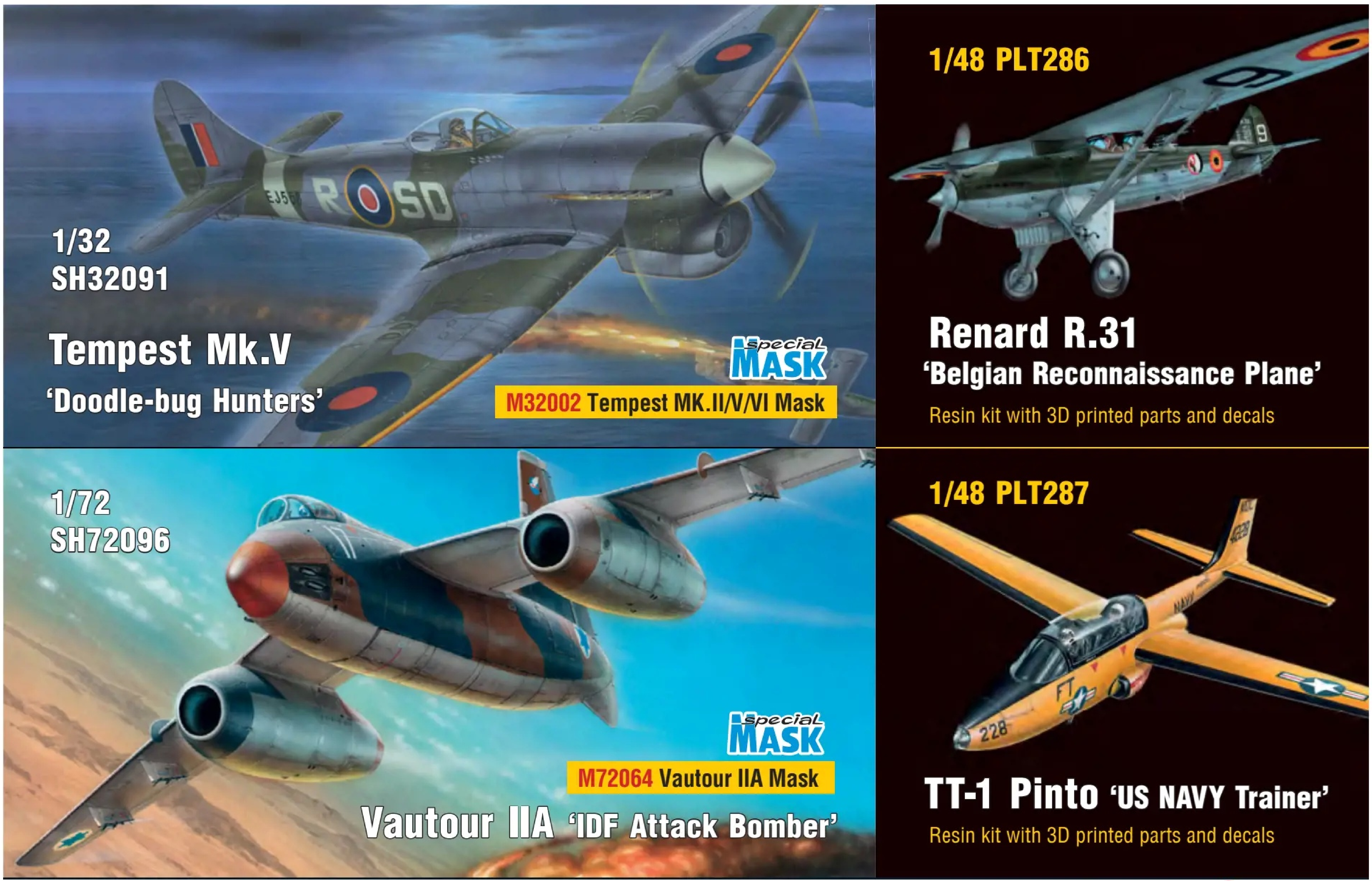
SUPERMARINE
SPITFIRE
NORTH AMERICAN
P51 MUSTANG
GRUMMAN F6F
HELLCAT
MITSUBISHI
A6M ZERO
FOCKE-WULF
190 A
MESSERSCHMITT
BF 109
HAWKER
HURRICANE

40s WAR BIRD SOUVENIRS

A COLLECTION OF THE MOST ICONIC FIGHTERS OF WW2 ON COFFEE MUGS + MATCHING COASTERS

For our latest releases, follow us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/40swarbirds

40swarbirds.etsy.com



1/32
SH32091

Tempest Mk.V
'Doodle-bug Hunters'

Special MASK
M32002 Tempest MK.II/V/VI Mask

1/48 PLT286

Renard R.31
'Belgian Reconnaissance Plane'
Resin kit with 3D printed parts and decals

1/72
SH72096

Special MASK
M72064 Vautour IIA Mask

Vautour IIA 'IDF Attack Bomber'

1/48 PLT287

TT-1 Pinto 'US NAVY Trainer'
Resin kit with 3D printed parts and decals

special hobby facebook.com/specialhobby | WWW.SPECIALHOBBY.EU | WWW.CMKKITS.COM CMK

New Earth Defender

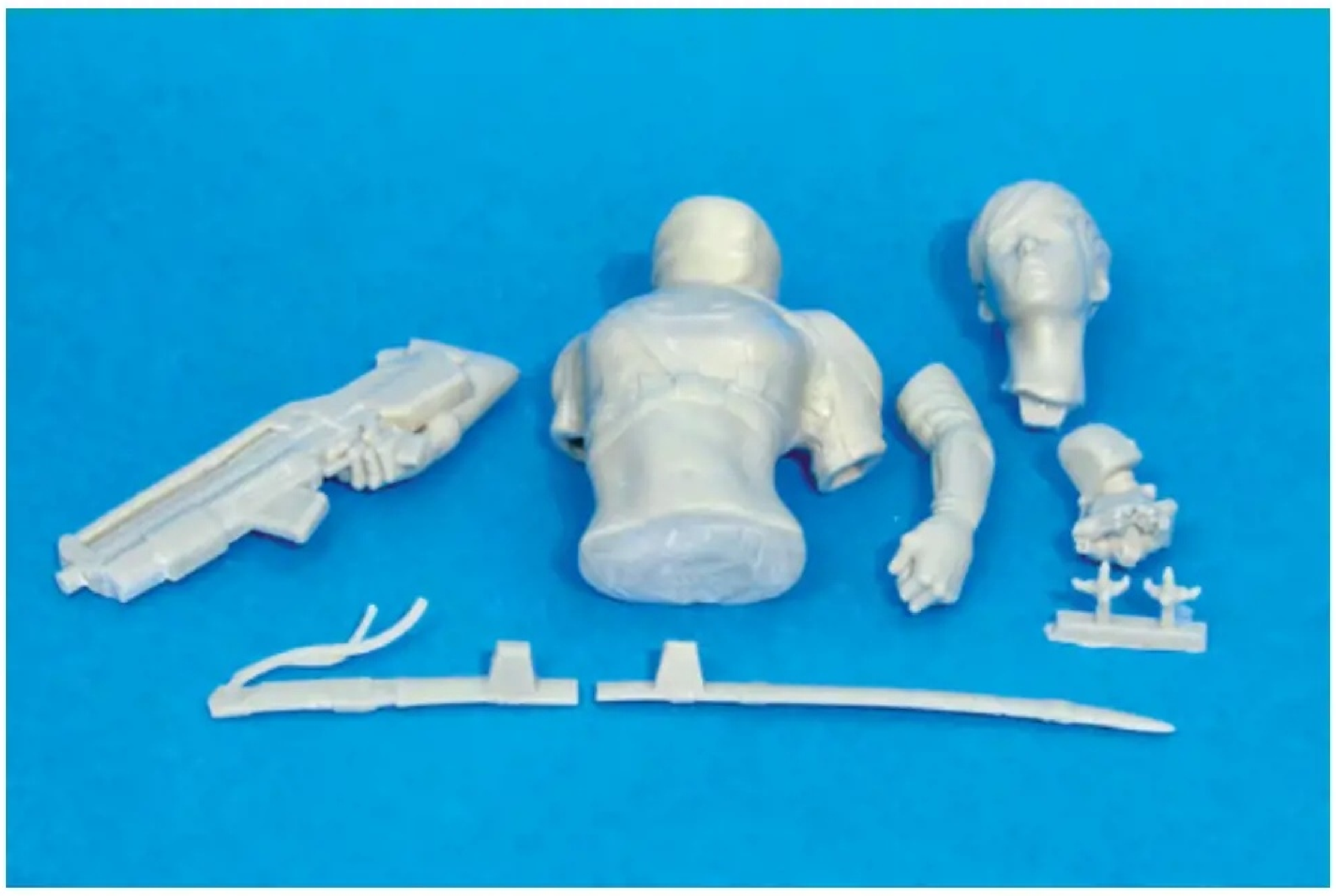
Compared to full-size figures, large-scale busts provide an excellent opportunity to hone your painting skills, especially on the face. Johan Augustsson took the chance with Alternity Miniatures' futuristic 1/10 Dafne 2220.

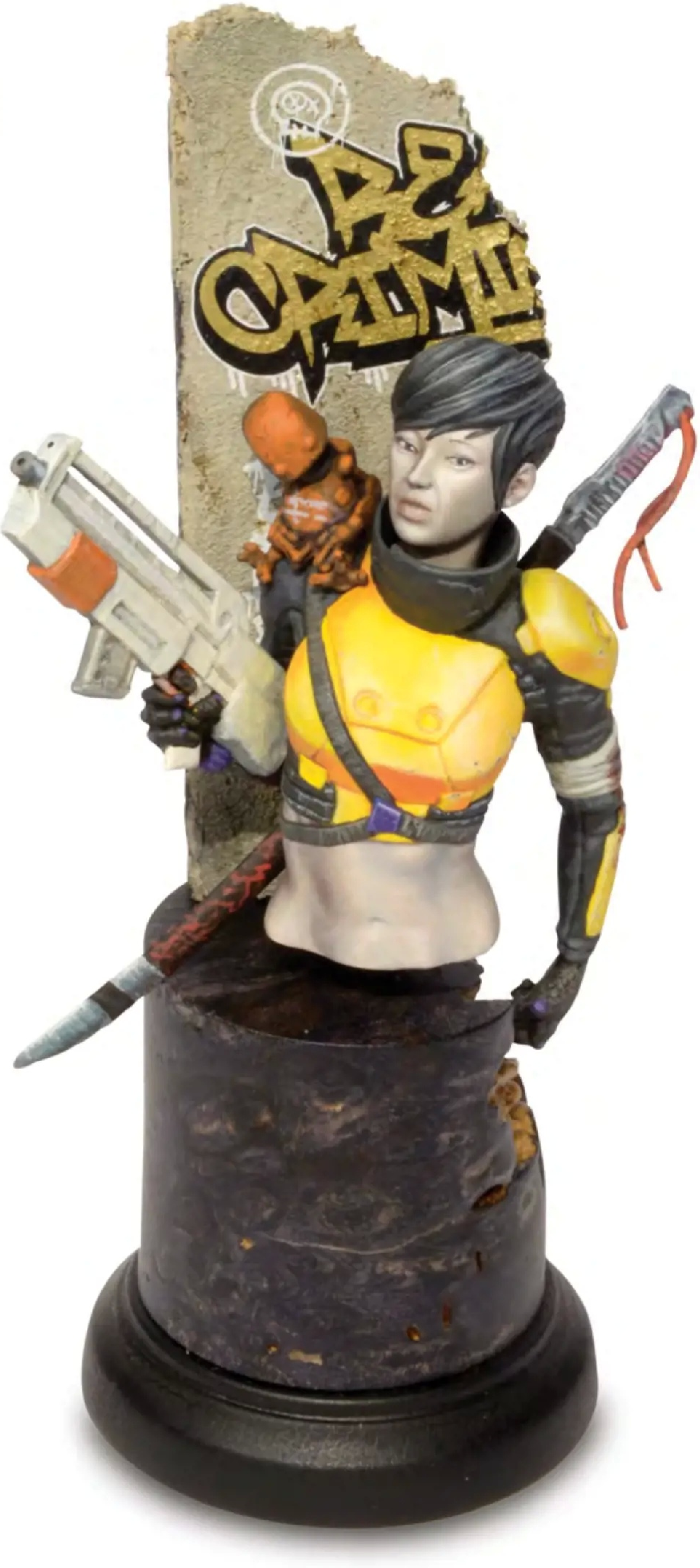
I do enjoy science fiction subjects when it comes to figure painting, so I was definitely interested when *Airfix Model World*'s editor suggested I try Alternity Miniatures' Dafne 2220 bust. In the UK it's available via Tyrell Models. The Alternity brand produces many appropriate items in the futuristic/post-apocalyptic genre, mainly in 1/35 but also series of 1/10 busts (see Alternity's Li'l Squat bust in *AMW* January 2024, by Dave Oliver). The backstory to the Dafne 2220 figure is that she leads an elite task force that defends New Earth from attack. The bust came in nine resin pieces, cast from a 3D-printed master, which was evident in some areas where the dreaded stripy pattern was still visible, and compared to the box art the subject lacked some of its definition.

MODEL SPEC

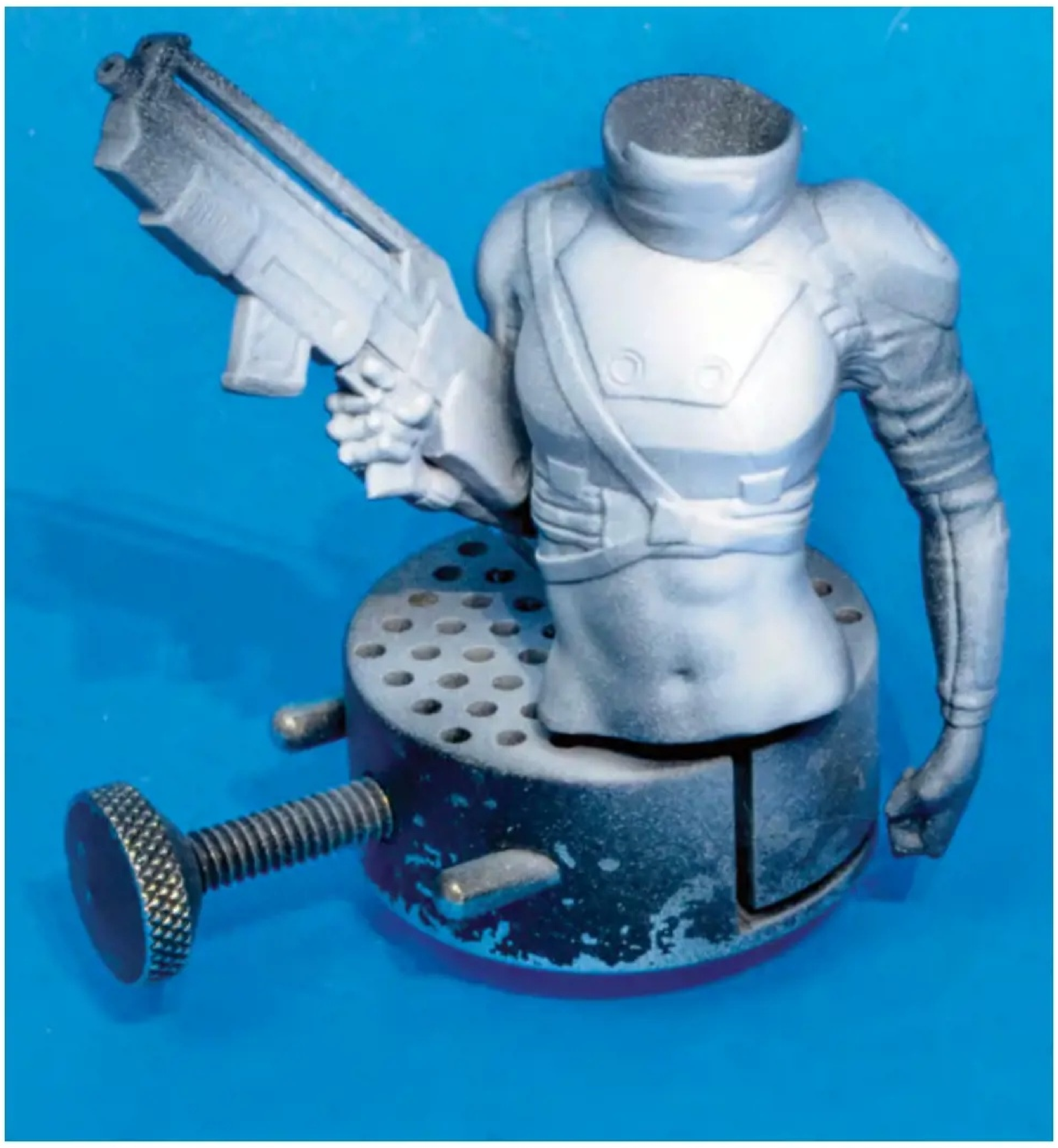
DAFNE 2220
By: Alternity Miniatures
Stock Code: N/A
Scale: 1/10
Price: £39.99
Available from: Tyrell Models (www.tyrellmodels.co.uk)

DAFNE 2220
BUST SERIES
1/10 SCALE

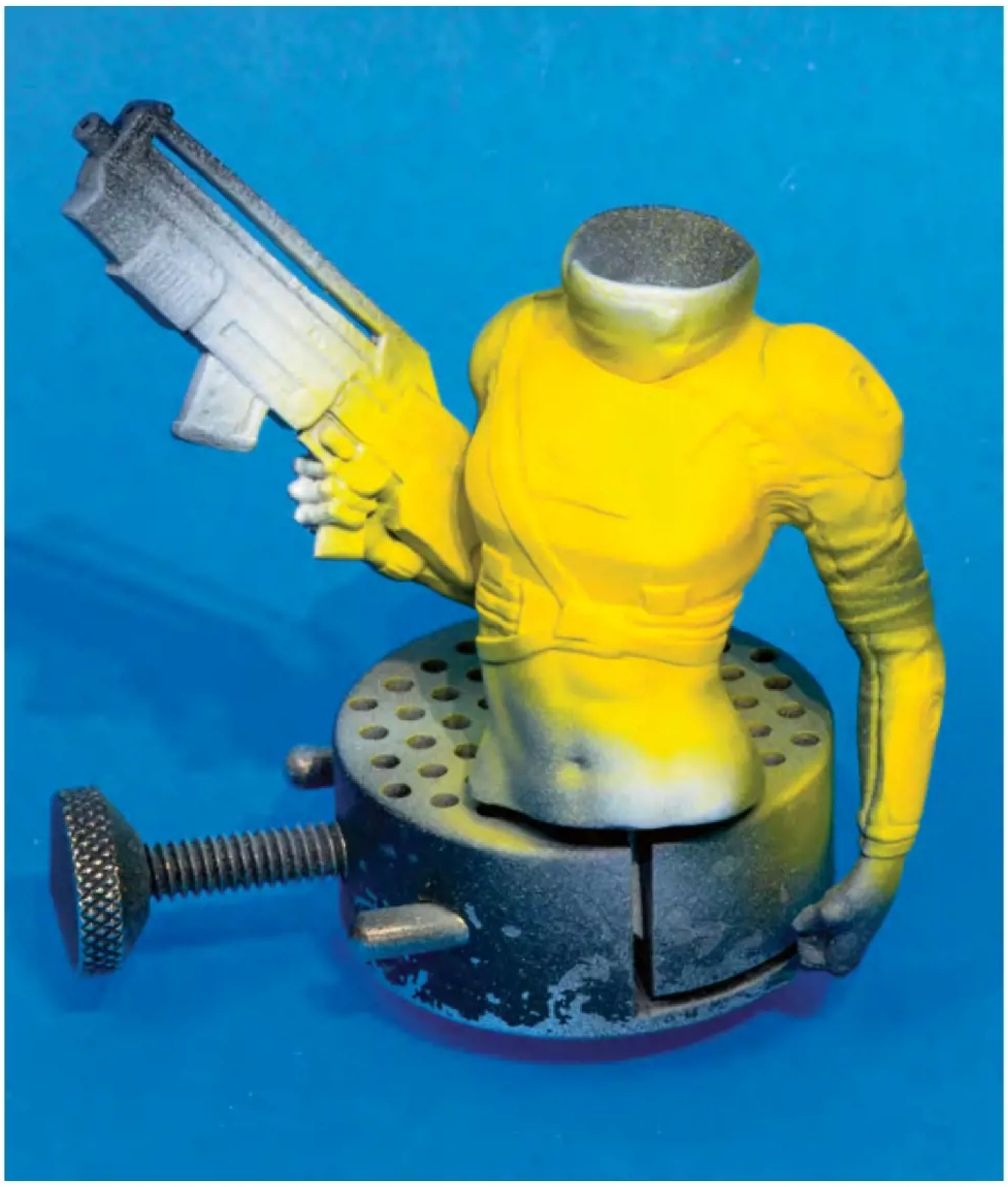




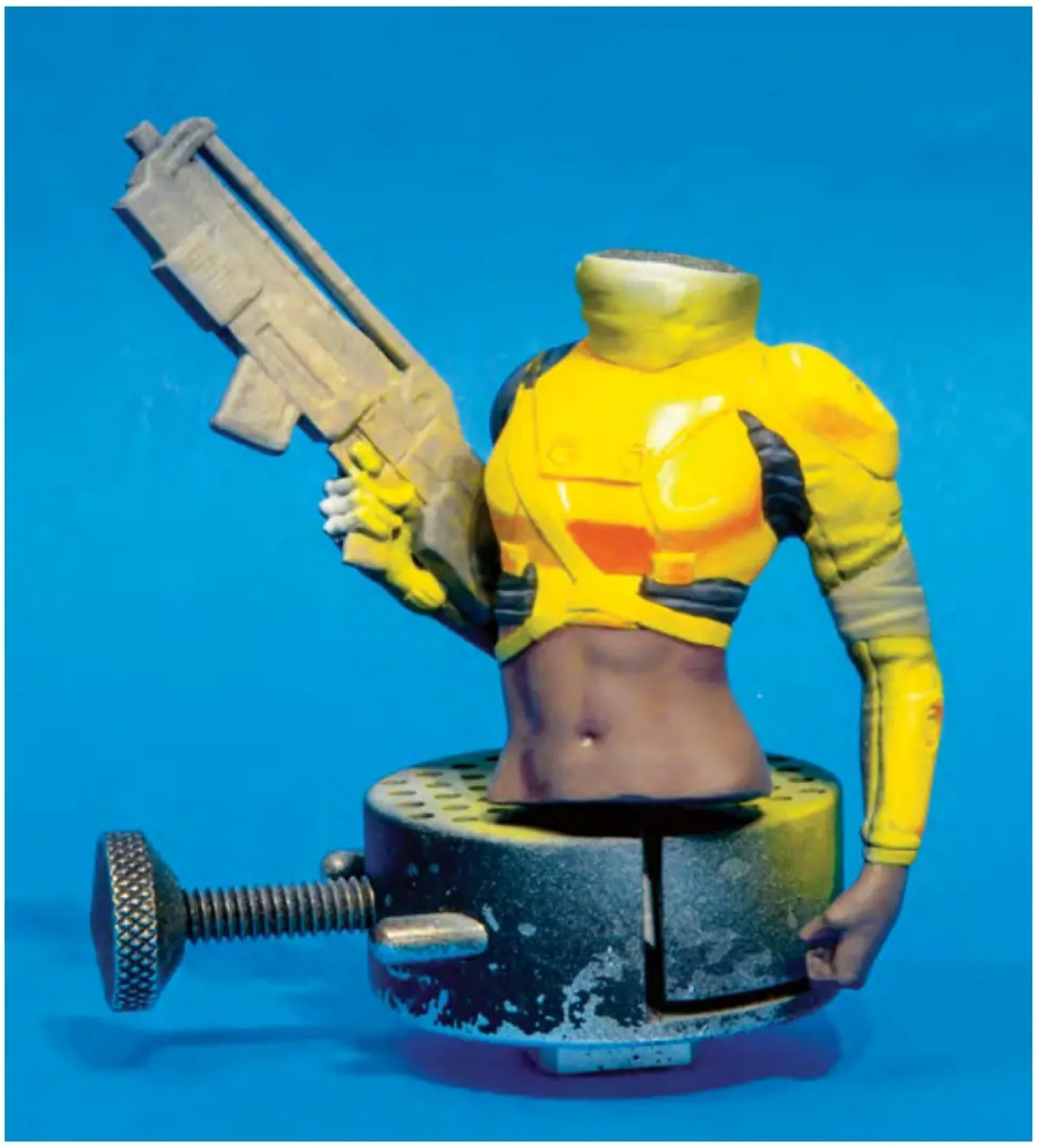
◀ The torso and head benefited from excellent detail, especially on the woman's belly and hair, while little robot avatar's features were slightly soft. However, the gun needed extensive scraping and sanding with a hobby knife and files to ensure a better appearance. The sword also lacked definition and came in two sections with the break right in the middle... not the most natural place. Overall fit of parts was fine, but the woman's neck was arguably too long so was cut by 5mm (after painting) to avoid her resembling a giraffe. Gap filling involved Magic Sculp before priming, and the aforementioned sword was assembled with a generous amount of superglue. The head was kept separate to enable the neck to be painted without having to deal with the high collar, as well as the robot and sword. These were left unattached to be painted separately, as they would otherwise impede the subsequent work.



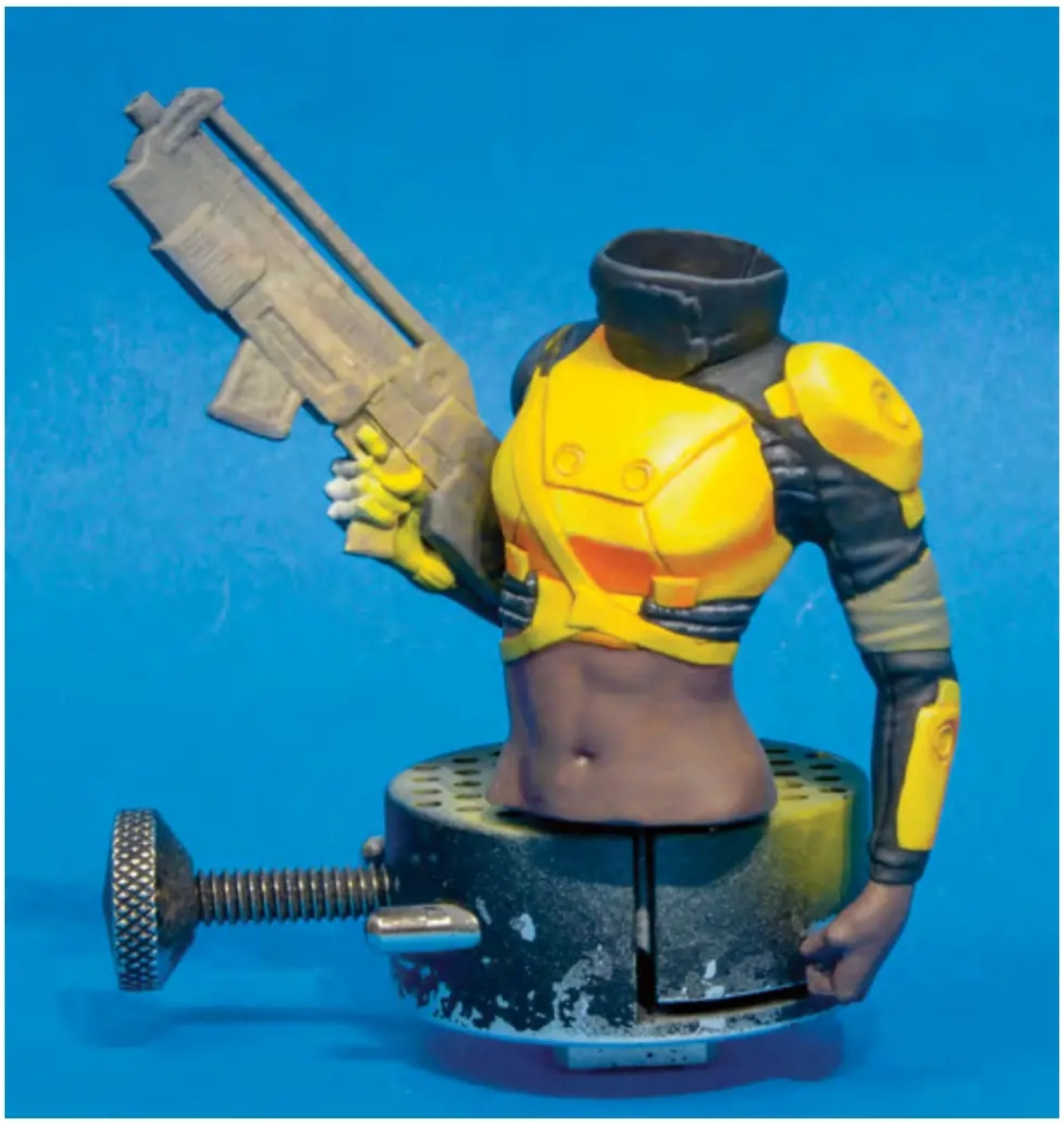
▲ The stars had finally aligned to realise the idea of painting a figure in the colour combination of black and yellow. As yellow is difficult due to its poor opacity, several methods of ensuring the best result were investigated. Notably, a bright undercoat helps the yellow remain vivid, whereas a black primer would make it dull. Some sources suggested that a pink base would make for great results, but here I thought that might be an example of overkill. First, simple black-and-white priming was chosen, with a One Source Lighting (OSL) approach – as in having the light coming from one specific point).



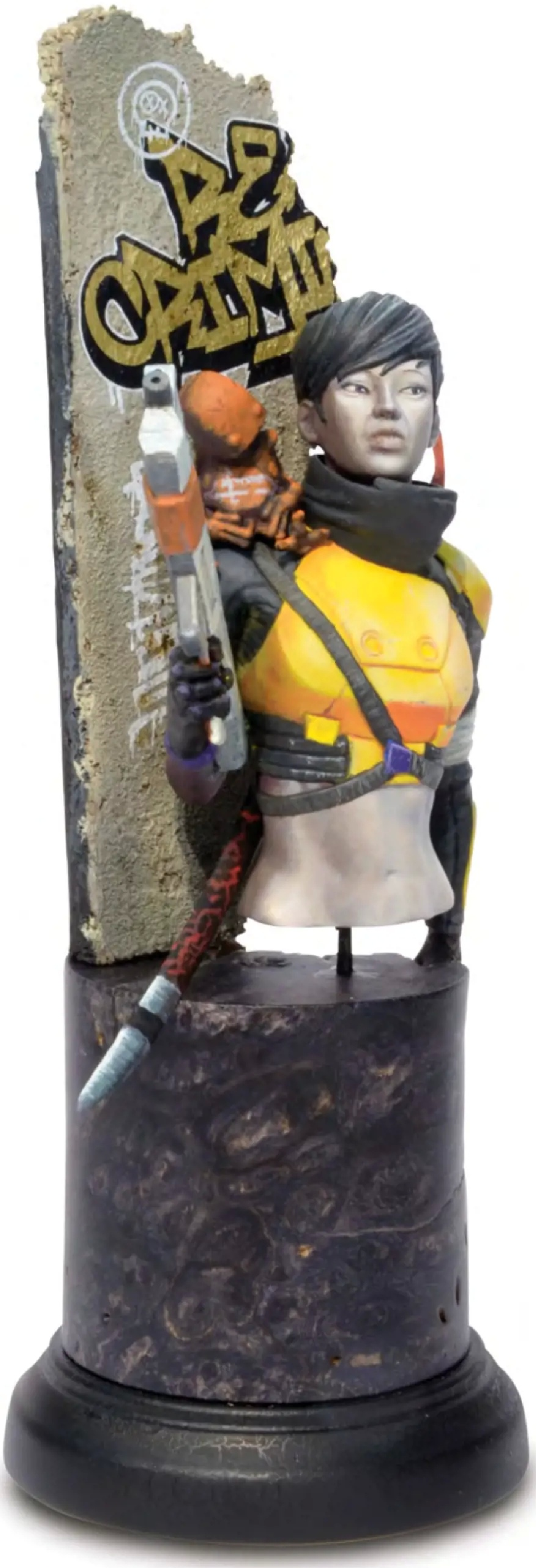
▲ The preceding steps were followed by an airbrushed application of AK Interactive Deep Yellow over the armoured areas.

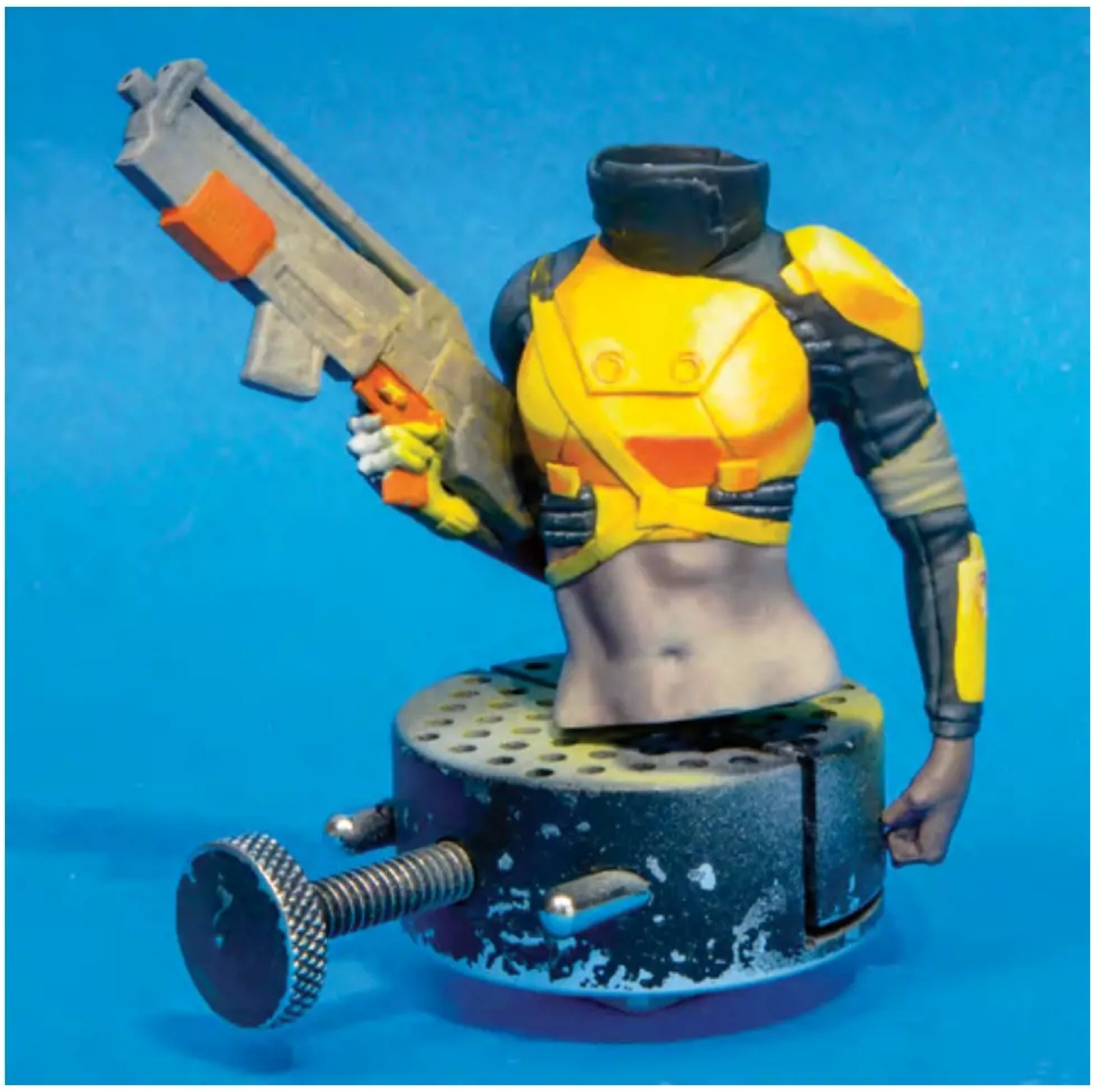


▲ To ensure a shiny surface for the yellow plates, the Deep Yellow was gradually mixed with Ivory, shaded with Deep Orange and even a tiny speck of Kimera Violet in the recesses. Ivory was first mapped out to the top-most points of the armour. For a smooth transition, small nuance shifts from yellow to white and yellow to orange were required, via very thin glazes. This meant the work took several hours of going back and forth. The gun and the bandage around the left arm received two coats of Grimy Grey as a foundation for an off-white result. Meanwhile, the padded garment was painted with Black Uniform Base, and the bare midriff received a base coat of Malefic Flesh. The soft detail made it hard to spot that she wore gloves, so here the left hand was primed for skin tones.



▲ The clothing under the armour was base painted with Rubber Black, and both black garments were highlighted with Grimy Grey and Ivory; the padded piece received small squiggles to add interest.

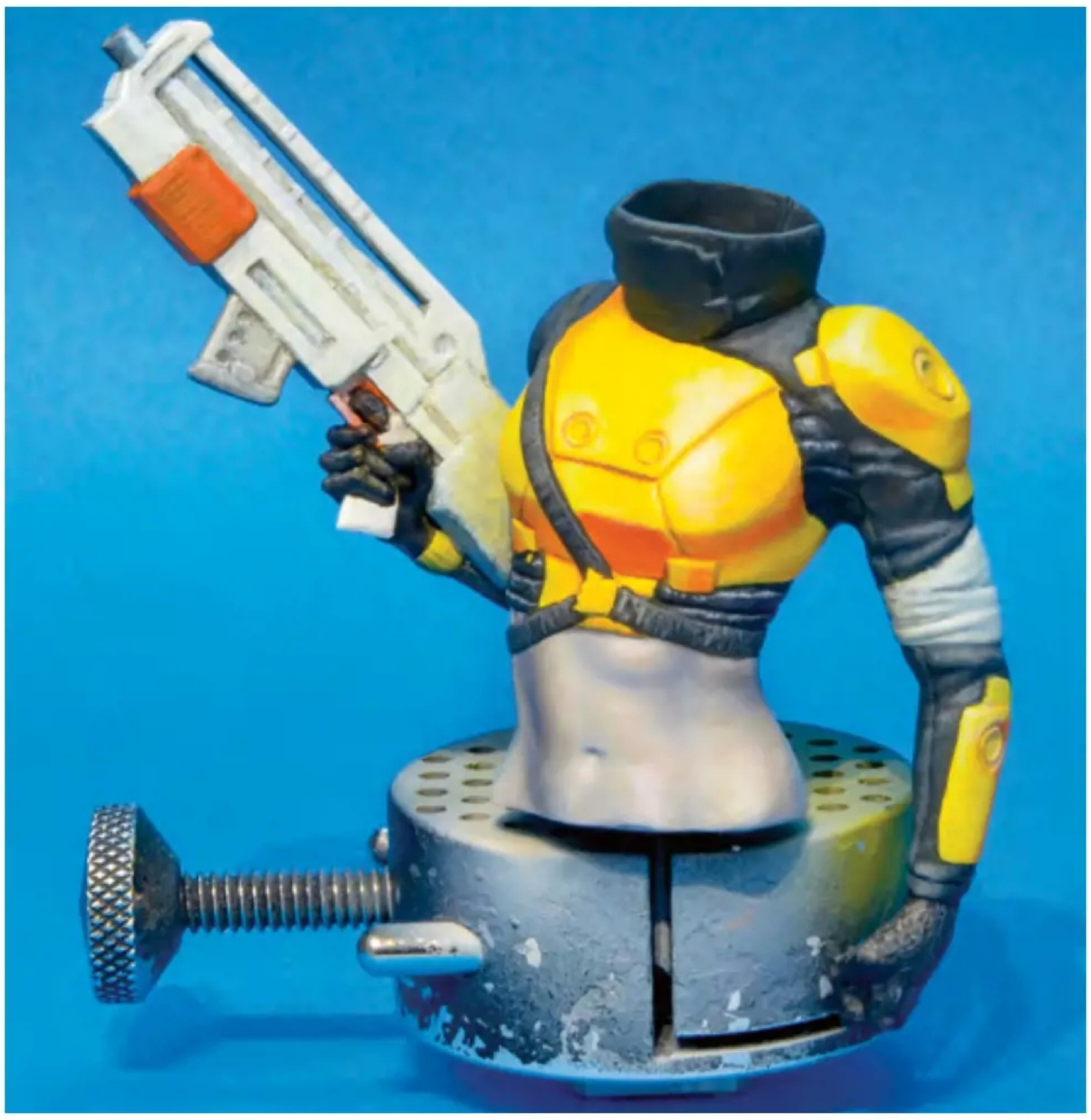




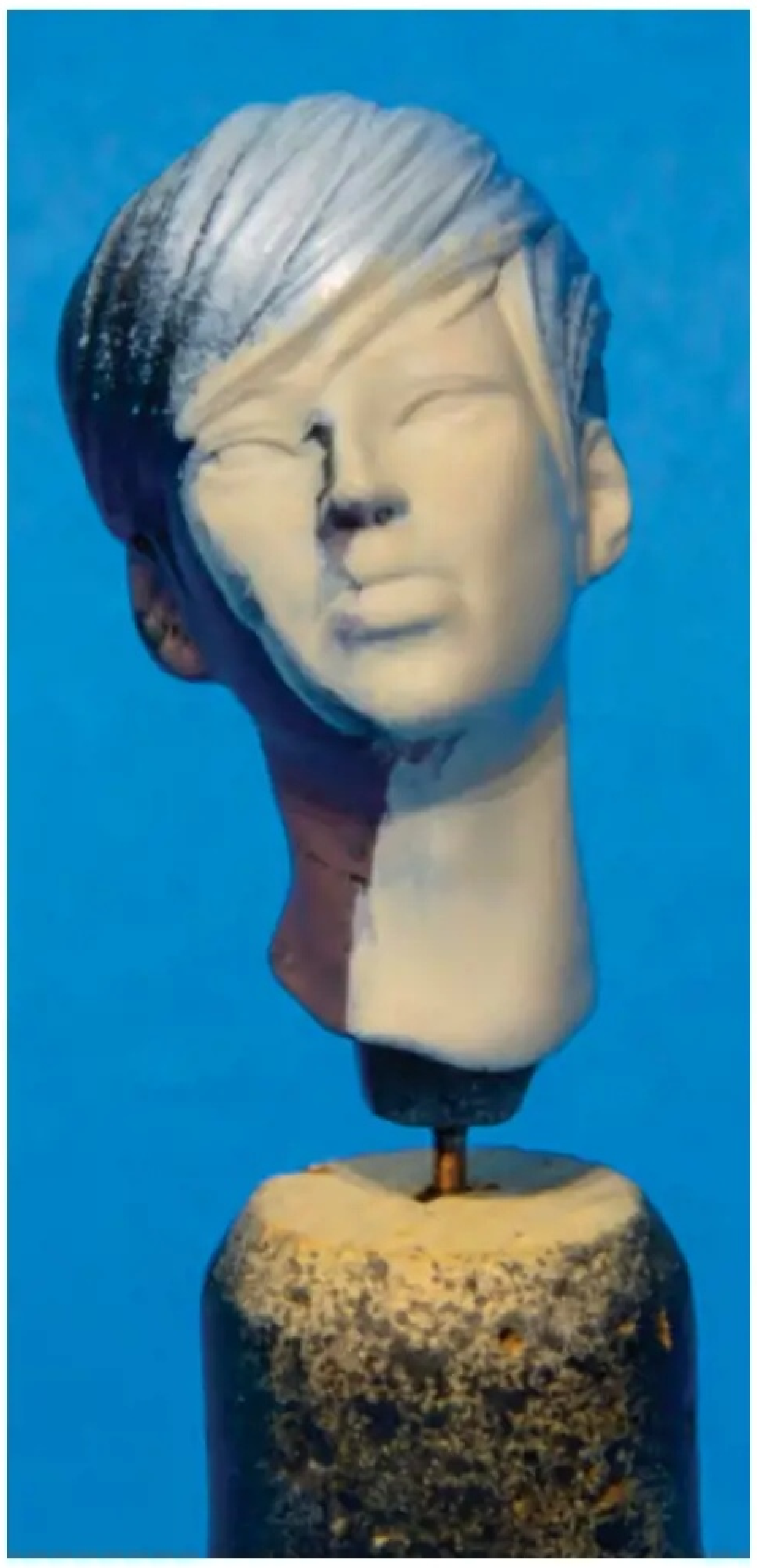
▲ The same technique used on the armour was employed for the skin tones, going from Purple Flesh in the shadow areas, via Malefic Flesh and Pale Flesh for the highlights. Here, the gun handles were base painted in Deep Orange.

▲ At some point patience went out the window and the airbrush was armed with White Flesh for the highest skin tone. But as this paint was acquired more than ten years before, the result was a clogged airbrush which spattered all over, with the repair work taking longer than it would have to continue with hand-painting... Oh well.

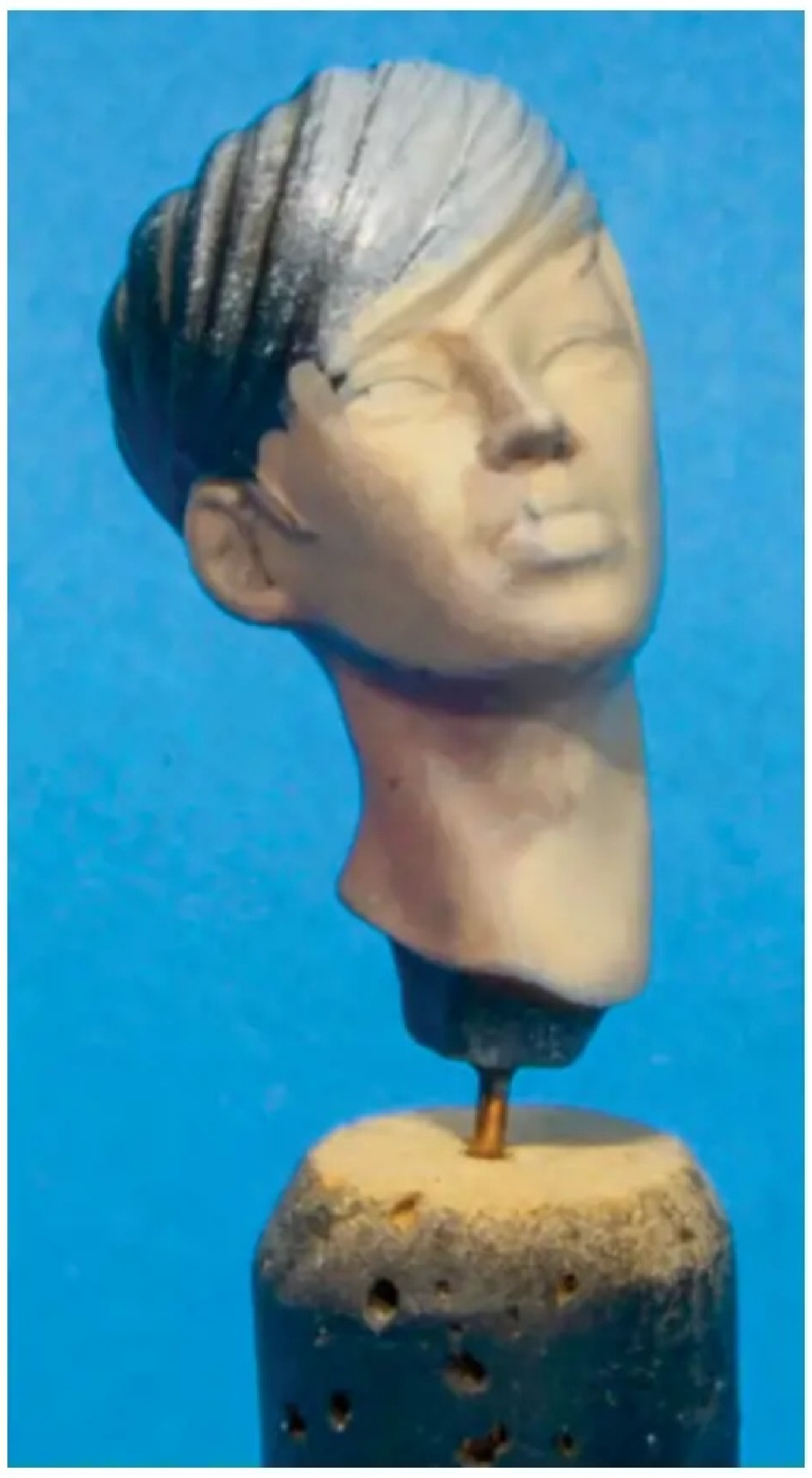
“Despite the soft details in some areas, Alternity Miniatures has made a pleasing figure”



▲ The gun was painted in Ivory and numerous coats were needed. Its grip was also painted white at this stage; the magazine remained grey, while the butt received a thin glaze of Ivory and Deep Yellow to mimic a reflection from the armour. When dry, several thin washes of Oiled Earth and Grey were applied, followed by more Ivory and White for the most upward-facing areas. Straps and gloves were base painted with a dark brown hue mixed from Black Uniform Base and Deep Orange. Cracks and leather 'squiggle' highlights were done by adding Grimy Grey and a dot of Ivory to the base. The bandage was painted in several off-white hues using paints mentioned here, and the armoured garment was detailed further with yet more squiggles for added interest.



▲ Now onto the face... the most difficult part of a figure to paint. As females generally have softer shifting of volume in their faces, delicate handling was required. Here, the colours Malefic Flesh, Purple Flesh and Pale Flesh were applied.



▲ Transitions between the paints were manipulated as explained earlier and coupled with a technique best explained as 'dotting'. This means vertically dotting different nuances with the brush tip to get a raster-like transition. It goes without saying that you shouldn't use your finest brushes for this, as the tips eventually become ruined... so use an old fine-tipped brush instead.

MATERIALS AT A GLANCE

AK Interactive (www.ak-interactive.com)
11001 White
11004 Ivory
11027 Rubber Black
11045 Deep Yellow
11080 Deep Orange
11091 Carmine
1008 Grimy Grey
11036 Ice Yellow
11029 Black
11407 Black Uniform Base
11164 Dark Blue Grey
11183 Amethyst Blue
8014 Concrete (Terrain series)

Vallejo (www.creativemodels.co.uk)
70.986 Deck Tan
70.992 Neutral Grey
70.941 Burnt Umber
74.011 Purple Flesh
74.012 Malefic Flesh
74.015 Pale Flesh
74.016 White Flesh
76.521 Oiled Earth (Wash)
76.516 Grey (Wash)

Green Stuff World (www.greenstuffworld.com)
2008 Train & Street Graffiti – Silver and Gold

▲ For the top highlights, White Flesh was applied to the forehead, chin, cheeks and bridge of the nose. As the neck would be covered by the collar, it didn't receive this colour tone. Then it was time for the most challenging part of the face – the eyes. It is, of course, easier to paint eyes in larger scales, but on the other hand, more tones are needed to make them look properly lifelike. It is also easier to paint the eyes as if looking to one side than straight forward. Firstly, a greyish tone was used to cover the whites – Pale Flesh in this case. This was followed by a thin coat of Ivory, avoiding covering the outer border of the whites. Ivory was then mixed with a speck of Carmine, which was traced along the lower eyelid rim.

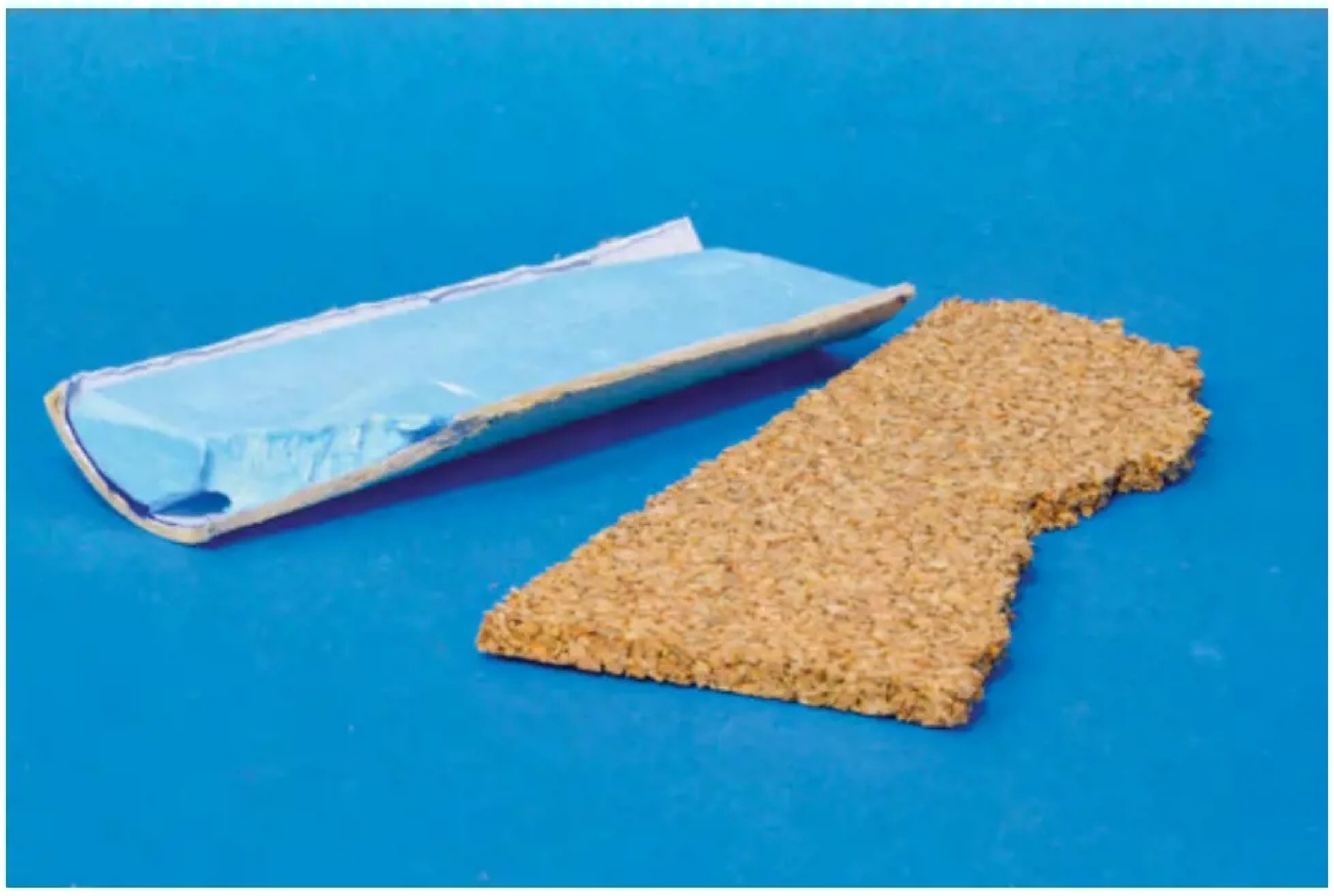
▲ The upper eyelid rim was painted in a dark brown, almost black hue, with eye lashes and eyebrows in the same colour. Lower lids were highlighted with White Flesh and then the black line around the irises was painted with Black. Inside this, Amethyst Blue was added, before the pupils were created with Black. The final touch is the catchlight, which gives the eyes life; this was added with pure White. The lips were also done at this stage, using several pinkish mixes of the Carmine and White Flesh, and painted to exaggerate the fine texture lips possess. For a warmer flesh tone, a highly diluted red wash could be applied in shaded areas, but here it was decided to emulate a sickly pallor.

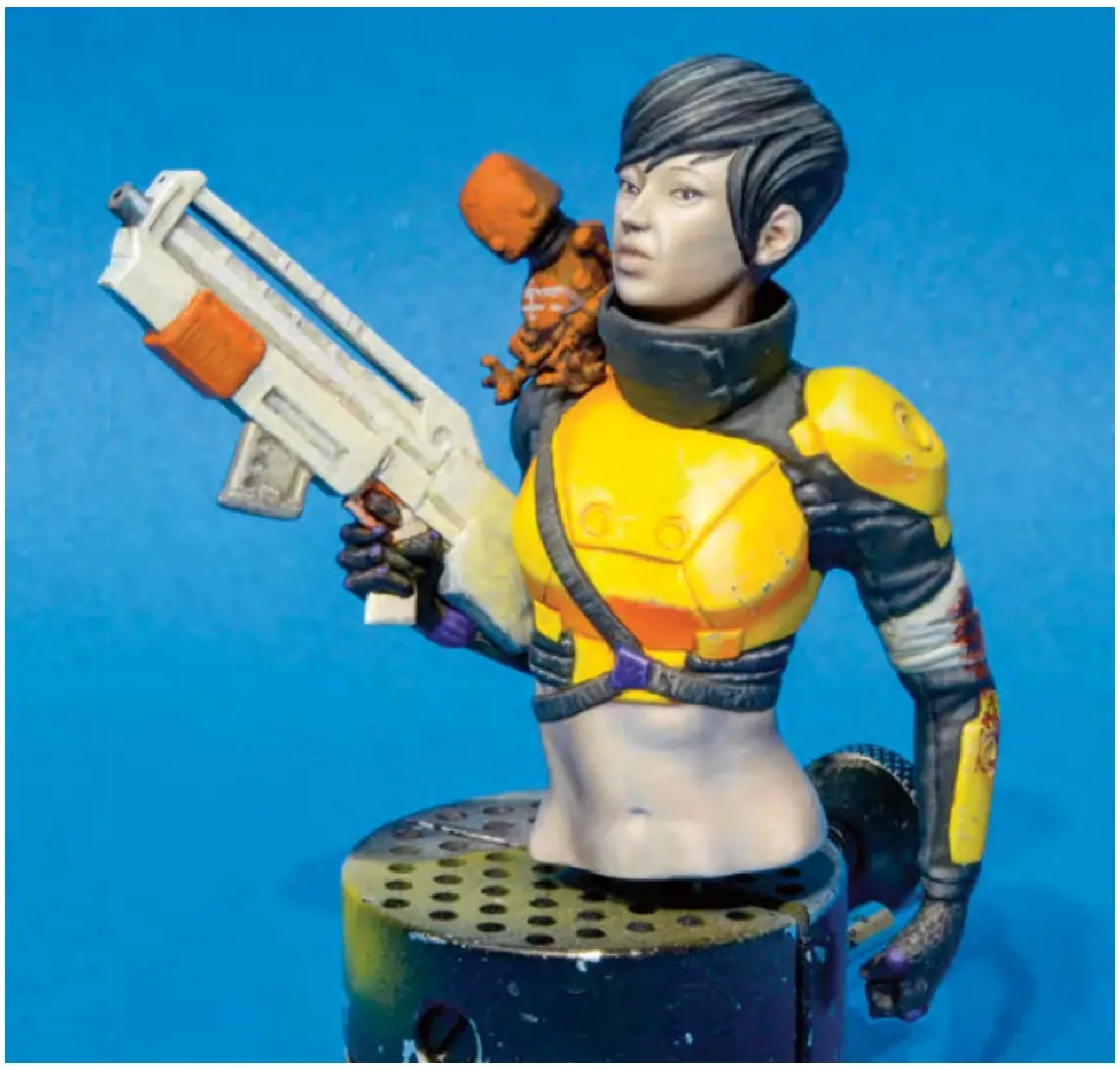
▲ The hair was painted after having watched a tutorial by acclaimed figure painter and YouTube channel host Vince Venturella (www.youtube.com/@VinceVenturella). In this, he explained how to approach the matter: start by tracing a bright halo form around the head with layers upon layers of brighter tones of the original colour – Black Uniform Base in this instance, highlighted with Pale Flesh and Ivory. When dry, you cover the whole mass of hair with a black wash and start all over again and repeat until you are satisfied. Three passes were applied on Dafne, plus pure black touch-ups.

▲ 'Mr Robot' was base painted in Purple Flesh, with successively brighter shades of Deep Orange being wet-blended, making the rust varied and pleasingly nuanced. To add interest, I studied the work of Swedish artist Simon Stålenhag – the man behind the books *Tales from the Loop* and *The Electric State* – and added grey stripes to its torso. With black lining in the recesses, the avatar was ready to be placed on Dafne's shoulder.

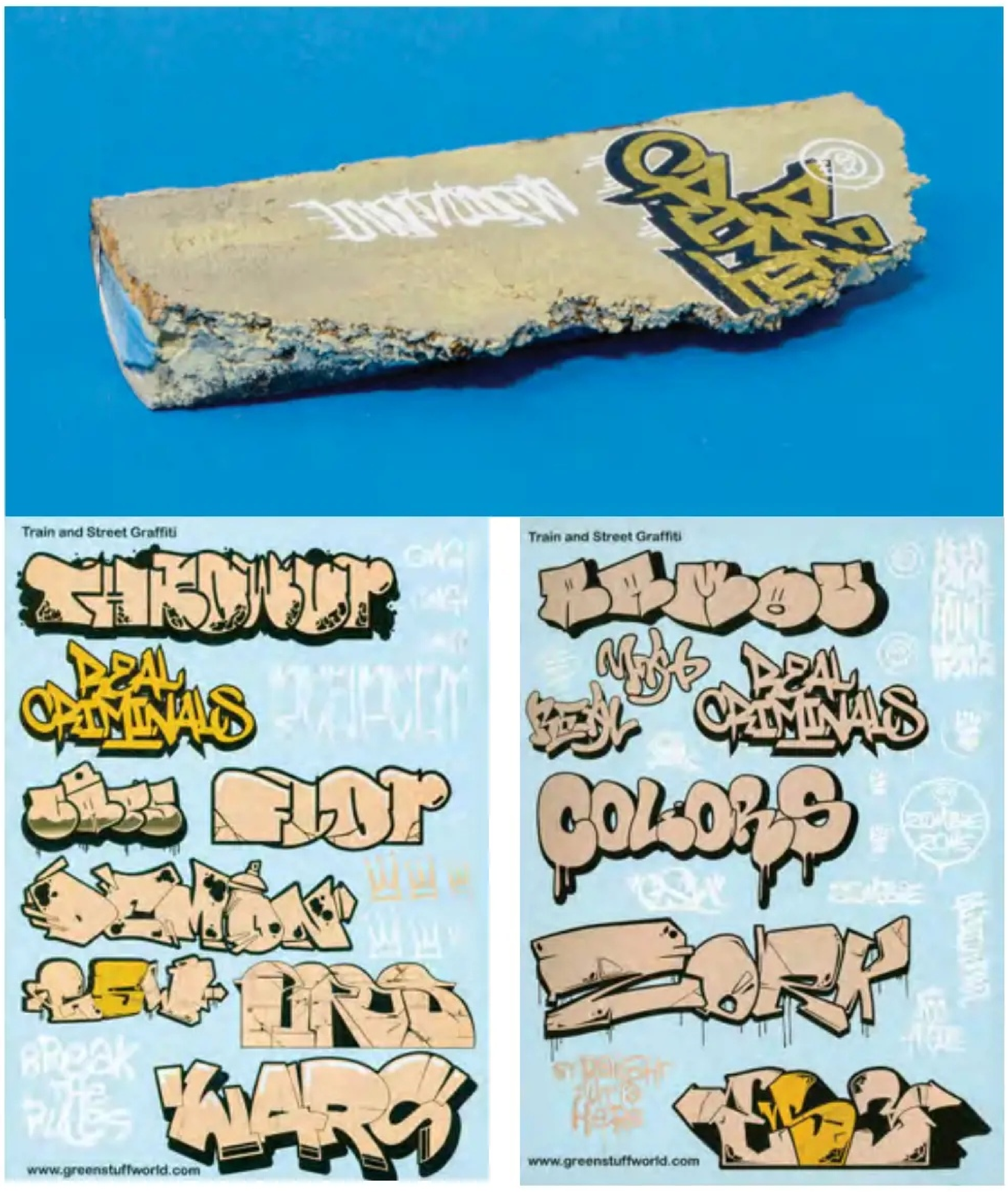
▶ The Editor provided a set of graffiti decals from Green Stuff World to use on a backdrop wall behind Dafne. As a round plinth was already earmarked for use, the backdrop needed to correspond. A toilet paper tube was cut to size, strengthened with a piece of Styrofoam and a section of cork sheet was measured to act as a base for a concrete wall.

▲ After the sword's problematic assembly, it was primed with black, followed by more squiggles… this time with Carmine. The metal parts were painted using the non-metallic metal technique, with Dark Blue Grey as a base, and then black included for the darker areas and Ivory for highlights. The straps were treated the same way as on Dafne herself, and finally the wavy band motif was painted with Carmine and Deep Orange.





▲ Three extra details were added to provide more visual interest to what was a rather plain canvas. First, blood on the bandage was painted with Burnt Umber and Carmine, as if it had run down her arm. Secondly, colour to break up the yellow-black-green was needed, and the same Amethyst Blue was used to pick out her belt buckle, knuckle guards and wristwatch. Lastly, scratches on the armour were made with sponged Ice Yellow and some of the speckles were then filled in with Neutral Grey.

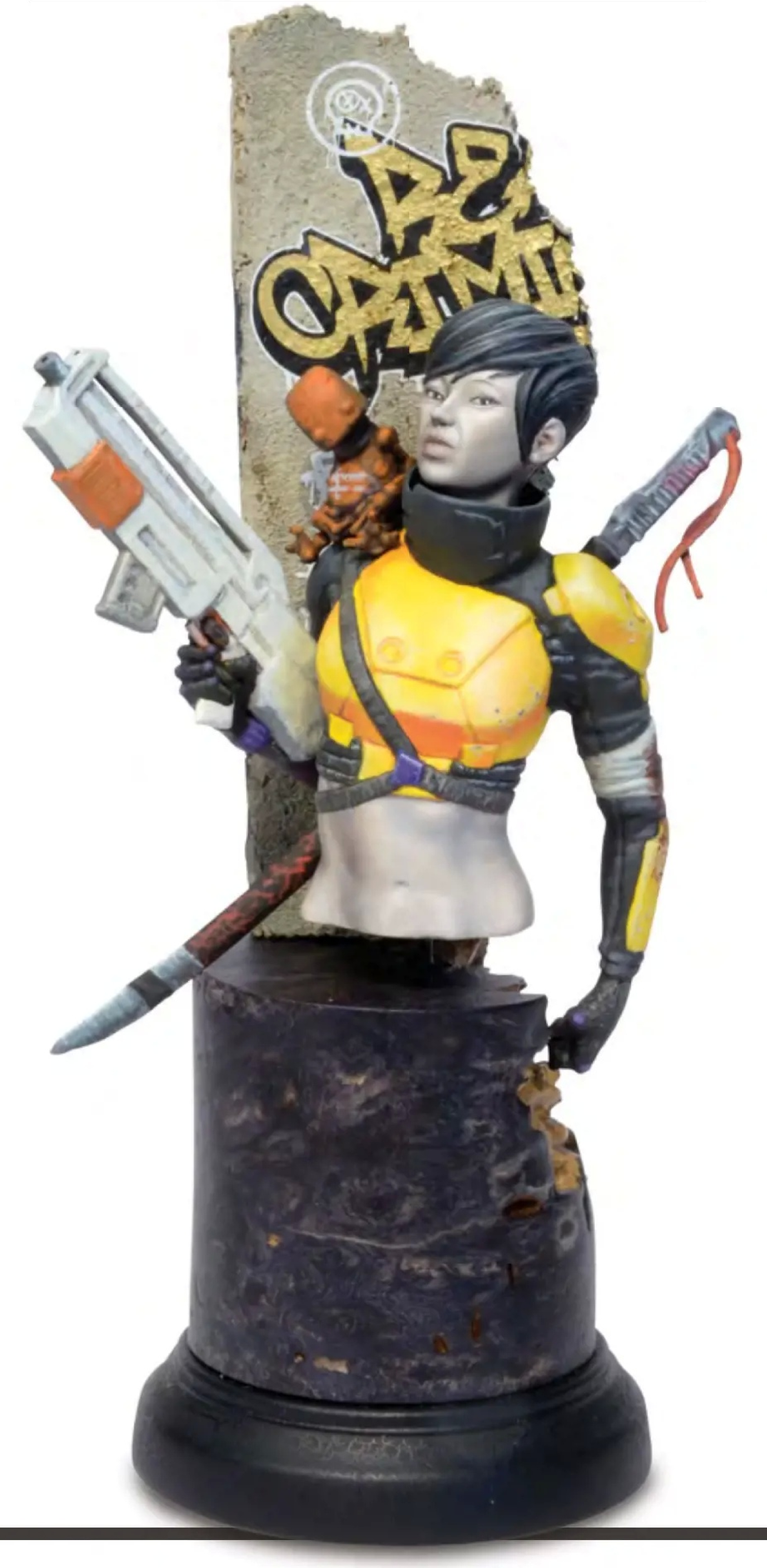


▲ AK Interactive Concrete was spread over the cork and after it had dried, it was primed with black. Three 'tags' from Green Stuff World's graffiti decal sheets were then selected and applied using liberal amounts of Micro Sol to pull the decals over the rough surface, aided by piercing them with a needle to let the decal solution soak through. When dry, the wall received grey and brown acrylic washes from Vallejo. Note that the lower left corner was 'damaged' to fit the cut-out on the plinth.

Back to the future

All that was left to do was attach the sword before the figure was fitted to the plinth, along with the backdrop. As you might have realised by now, the colour palette was kept within a narrow range of yellow, orange/red and greenish hues with violet for the shaded areas. The only other 'popping' shade being the splashes of Amethyst Blue for Dafne's eyes and several other details. Better painters than me often suggest using a maximum of three main colours, and this advice was followed as closely as possible. This approach kept the figure balanced and more pleasing to look at from a colour theory perspective. The yellow was as difficult as commentary suggested – but I think the result was striking. Despite the soft detail in some areas, Alternity Miniatures has made a pleasing figure. A study of the firm's other varied products, I predict, will prompt many more joyful hours at the workbench.

> **"The bust came in nine resin pieces, cast from a 3D-printed master"**



Key Publishing

Model World

YOUR MODELLING DESTINATION

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

SUBSCRIBER ONLY BENEFITS

Unmissable modelling content at your fingertips

1. **UNLIMITED** access to all *Key Model World* content including more than 6,000 modelling articles!
2. **EXCLUSIVE** product reviews, latest news, builds and highly detailed layouts, in-depth articles, videos and quizzes you won't find anywhere else
3. Exclusive **VIDEO FEATURES** showcasing the model railways we feature on screen
4. Full access to **ALL** exclusive *Key Model World* video series
5. New **FOUR-PART VIDEO** series every eight weeks, exclusive to *Key Model World*
6. A huge, fully **SEARCHABLE** archive of modelling content
7. Access to read the official ***AIRFIX MODEL WORLD*** and ***HORNBY MAGAZINE*** online as digital page-turners
8. Exclusive monthly **SUBSCRIBER OFFERS** on *Key Model World Shop* products
9. **SAVE** on *Key Publishing* event tickets as a *Key Model World* subscriber
10. **SAVE** on **Railway Touring Company UK** main line steam day trips
11. Access on any device **ANYWHERE, ANYTIME**

MONTHLY
£3.99
renews every month

BEST VALUE
ANNUAL
£44.99
renews every year

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

For more information please visit

www.keymodelworld.com

887/25

P-51D MUSTANG
available at www.armahobby.com
ARMA HOBBY
1/72

TIGER HOBBIES LIMITED
SCALE MODELS & COLLECTABLES
WWW.TIGERHOBBIES.CO.UK

OUR IMPORTS
HM HOBBYMASTER, TAKOM, CLASSY HOBBY, IBG MODELS, BPK, CENTURY WINGS, VESPID MODELS, RFM RYEFIELD MODEL, HOBBY 2000, VALOM, eduard, GWH, ARMIES in PLASTIC, MAGIC FACTORY, AMK, LF MODELS, X-PLUS, Gecko Models, Mirage HOBBY, ZOUKEI-MURA INC., KOTARE, STAR ACE, ARMORY, VERY FIRE, ARMA HOBBY

MAGIC FACTORY 1401 1/12 HONDA
CBR1000RR-R Fireblade SP 1:9 Model Kit
DUE MID SEPTEMBER 2025 **RRP £89.99**

MAGIC FACTORY 1402 1/9 HONDA
CBR1000RR-R Fireblade SP
DUE MID SEPTEMBER 2025 **RRP £89.99**

UMA MODELS D1001 HARRIER II
AV8B Plus
DUE MID SEPTEMBER 2025 **RRP £59.99**

MAGIC FACTORY
HONDA
CBR1000RR-R
FIREBLADE SP
1401

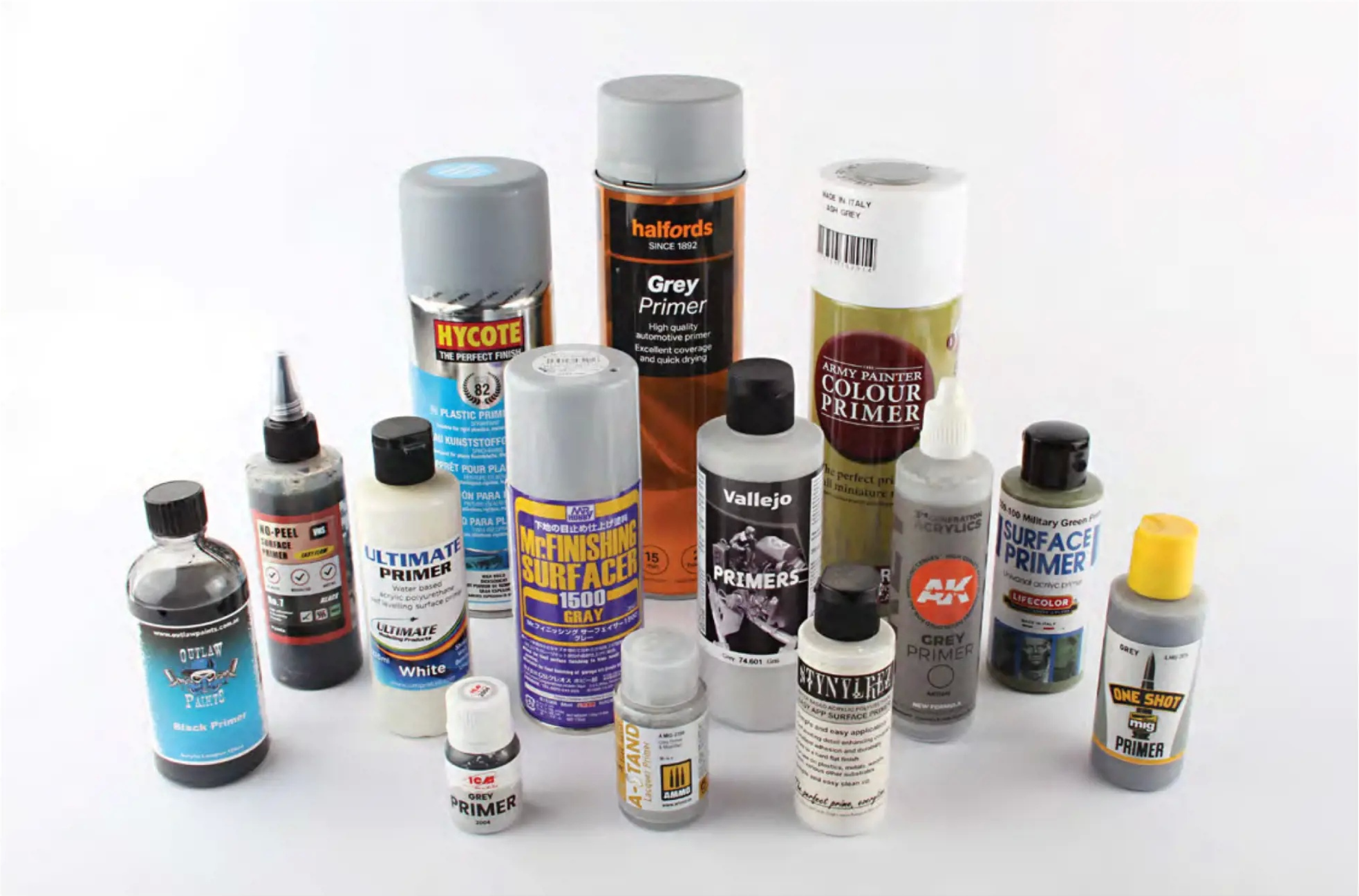
HONDA
CBR1000RR-R
FIREBLADE SP
MAGIC FACTORY

AV-8B HARRIER II PLUS

UK HOBBY TRADERS PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU WISH TO RETAIL OUR BRANDS
01709 890 940
sales@tigerhobbies.co.uk

PRIME TIME!

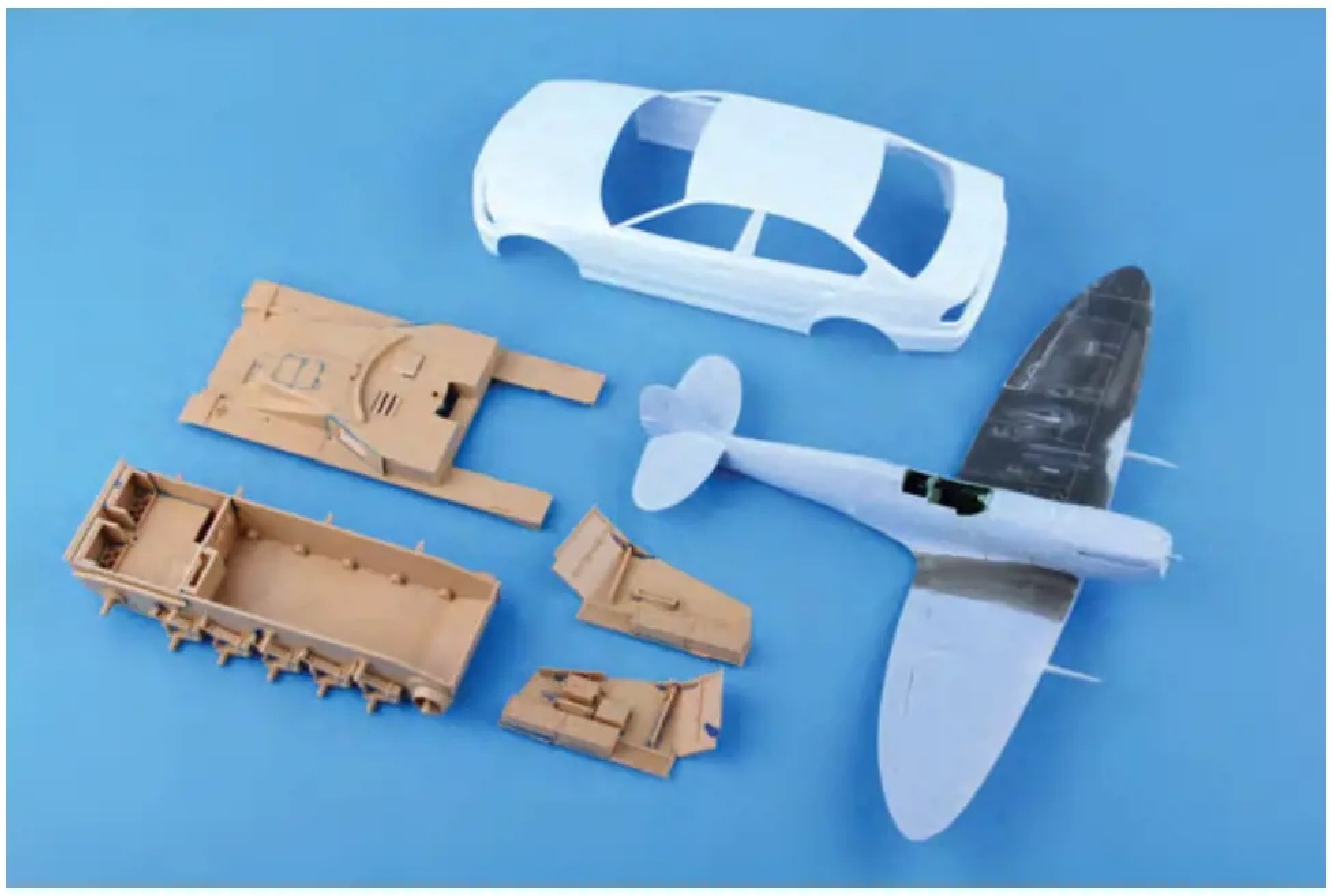
In this first part of a new *Back to Basics* series, we look at primers – inspired by a series of questions from *AMW* readers.



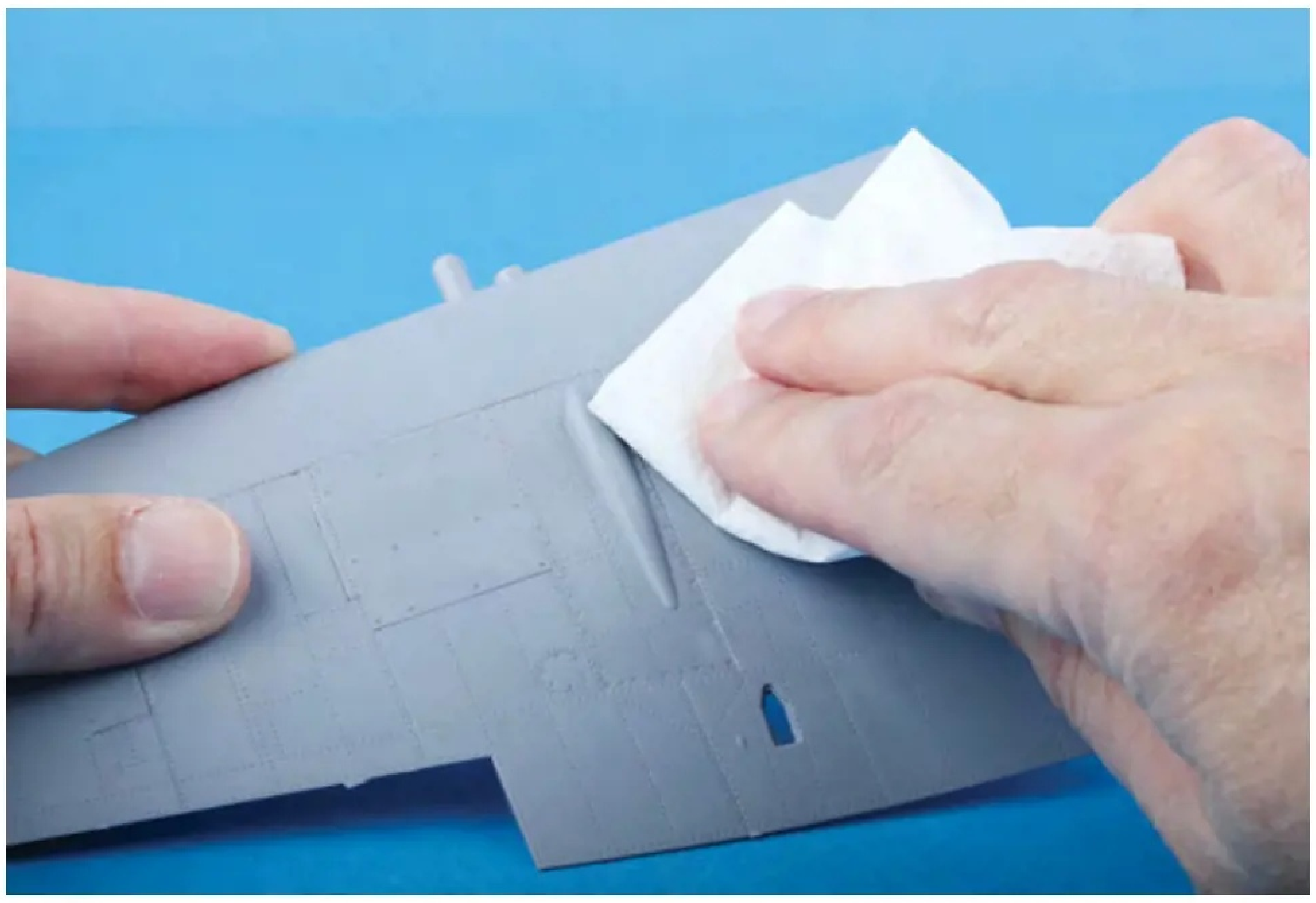
For many older modellers, Halfords' automotive and plastic primers were almost a right of passage as they progressed from basic painting. It wasn't too long ago that there were perhaps half-a-dozen products available – a stark contrast to the variety on offer today (a quick check revealed at least 18 brands with multiple types). Halfords' recent change from grey to clear plastic primer raised several questions about alternatives; these, accompanied by general requests on primers, led to this article. Fortunately, there is an easy alternative to Halfords' grey plastic primer, and that's the Hycote product. From what we've learned at *AMW*, these were both manufactured at the same place, and these primers are available relatively cheaply in multiples via the likes of Amazon.

Primer basics

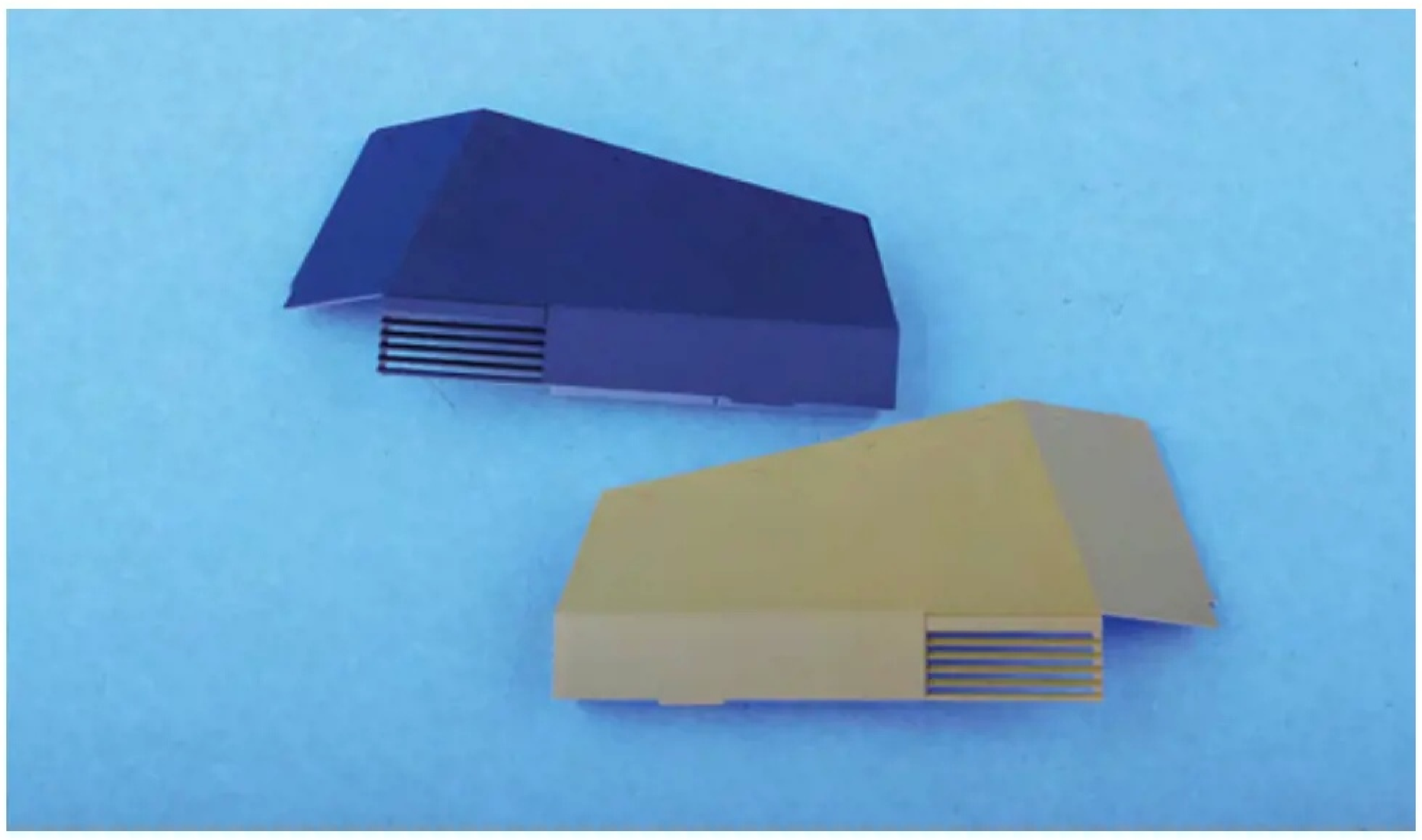
We should begin with what is a primer? Compared to your basic paint, primers have a higher pigment-to-suspension ratio, which means they cover more easily. Modern products may also contain ingredients that help it to 'self-level', while some shrink as they dry, so although the applied coat may look 'thick' when wet,



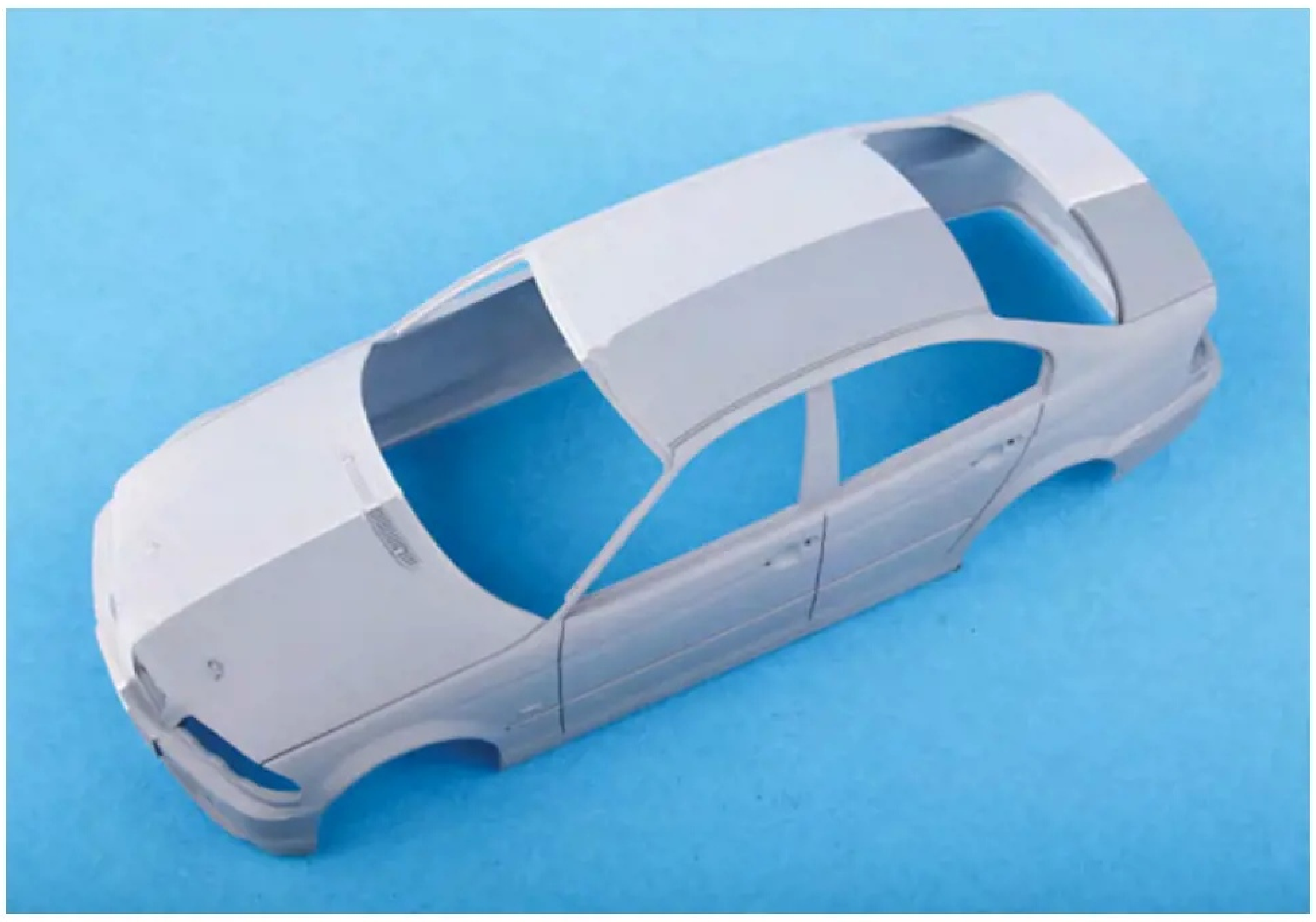
▲ **Three subjects were selected for this article, a NuNu 1/24 BMW 320i, Airfix 1/48 Spitfire Mk.V (which had previously been used as a spraying 'guinea pig' for a demonstration event) and Tamiya's 1/35 Sd.Kfz.124 Wespe.**



▲ Preparation is key to painting and a common approach was taken with the subjects used; each being cleaned with Isopropyl alcohol to remove any grease or dust. The wing from a 1/24 Spitfire Mk.IXc build was employed as I'd forgotten to photograph this step for the three article examples.



▲ Highlighting the variety of colours available, the Wespe fighting compartment sidewalls received AK Interactive's Black Primer & Microfiller and Vallejo's Dark Yellow Surface Primer. Both are airbrush-ready products, although if you're using the Vallejo product for prolonged spraying you may wish to add a flow enhancer to prevent it drying on the needle tip. Either would be ideal for a military subject; AK's can be used as a pre-shade, while the Vallejo primer will give a richer finish to a German Dark Yellow topcoat.



▲ It seemed apt to use the two automotive products on the car bodyshell; Hycote's Plastic Primer being the darker of the two. While it and the Halfords's product covered equally well, the latter had a roughened surface, which would need sanding before a topcoat could be applied. No issues were encountered with the tape test, but if it came to identifying a 'winner' then Hycote's plastic primer would be the better choice due to its smoother finish.

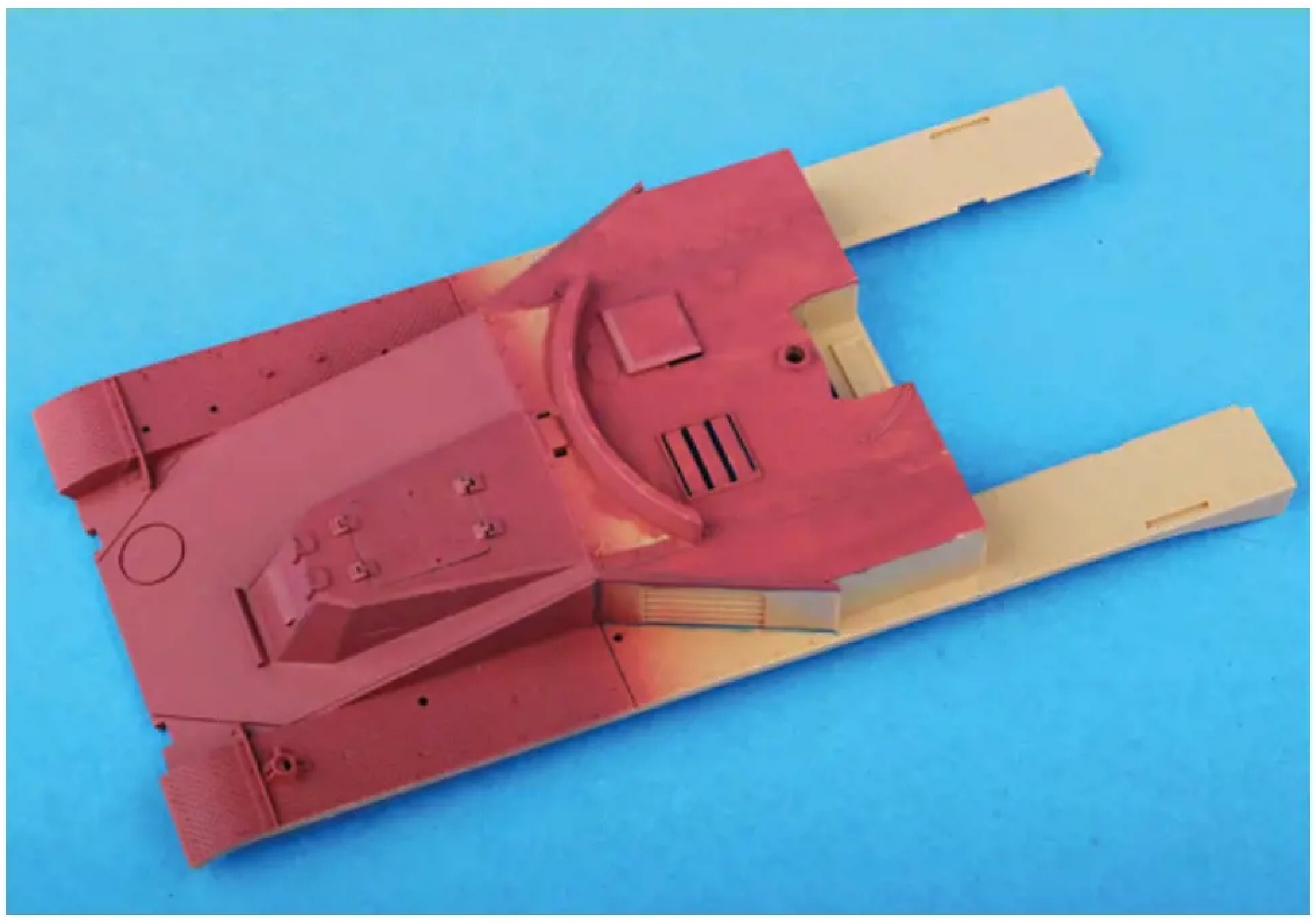
once it's cured it will have shrunk into the detail. Most primers are intended for spraying (either from an aerosol or airbrush), although a number can be brush-painted.

In a nutshell, a primer serves three main roles: to act as a base layer for subsequent painting, to unify the surface (particularly if disparate colours of styrene or materials are used) and to check for construction issues/ surface blemishes. There are predominantly two types of primer... acrylic and lacquer; enamels used to be popular, but have fallen out of favour with modellers. Differences between acrylics and lacquers are down to the suspension, which is water- and cellulose-based respectively. Note, acrylic brands such as Tamiya and Mr. Hobby have alcohol in the mix, which changes their properties... most notably they bind more strongly to the model's surface.

Whether to prime

It's here we'll address a perennial question... should modellers prime a model? It's tricky,

▶



▲ Lifecolor's acrylic primers can be brushed or sprayed. Here the front panels have been airbrushed after being diluted, while a single brush-painted coat covers the fighting compartment interior (it would require a second coat to match the airbrushed treatment). Both passed the tape test without issue.

MATERIALS AT A GLANCE

The following primers and paints were used in this article:

AK Interactive (www.ak-interactive.com)
AK757 Primer & Microfiller Black

AMMO (www.migjimenez.com)
A.MIG-2024 One-Shot Primer Grey
A.MIG-2350 Grey Primer & Microfiller

Halfords (www.halfords.com)
258627 Grey Primer

Hycote (https://hycote.co.uk)
XUK612 Plastic Primer Grey

ICM (www.hobbyco.net)
2004 Grey Primer

Lifecolor (www.airbrushes.com)
LC-BC02 Surface Primer Red Brown

Mr. Hobby (www.albionhobbies.com)
H414 RLM 23 Red
Mr. Finishing Surface 1550 Gray

Outlaw Paints (www.outlawpaints.co.uk)
OP P002 Black Primer
OP115 RAF Trainer Yellow

Revell (www.revell.co.uk)
34136 Carmine Red

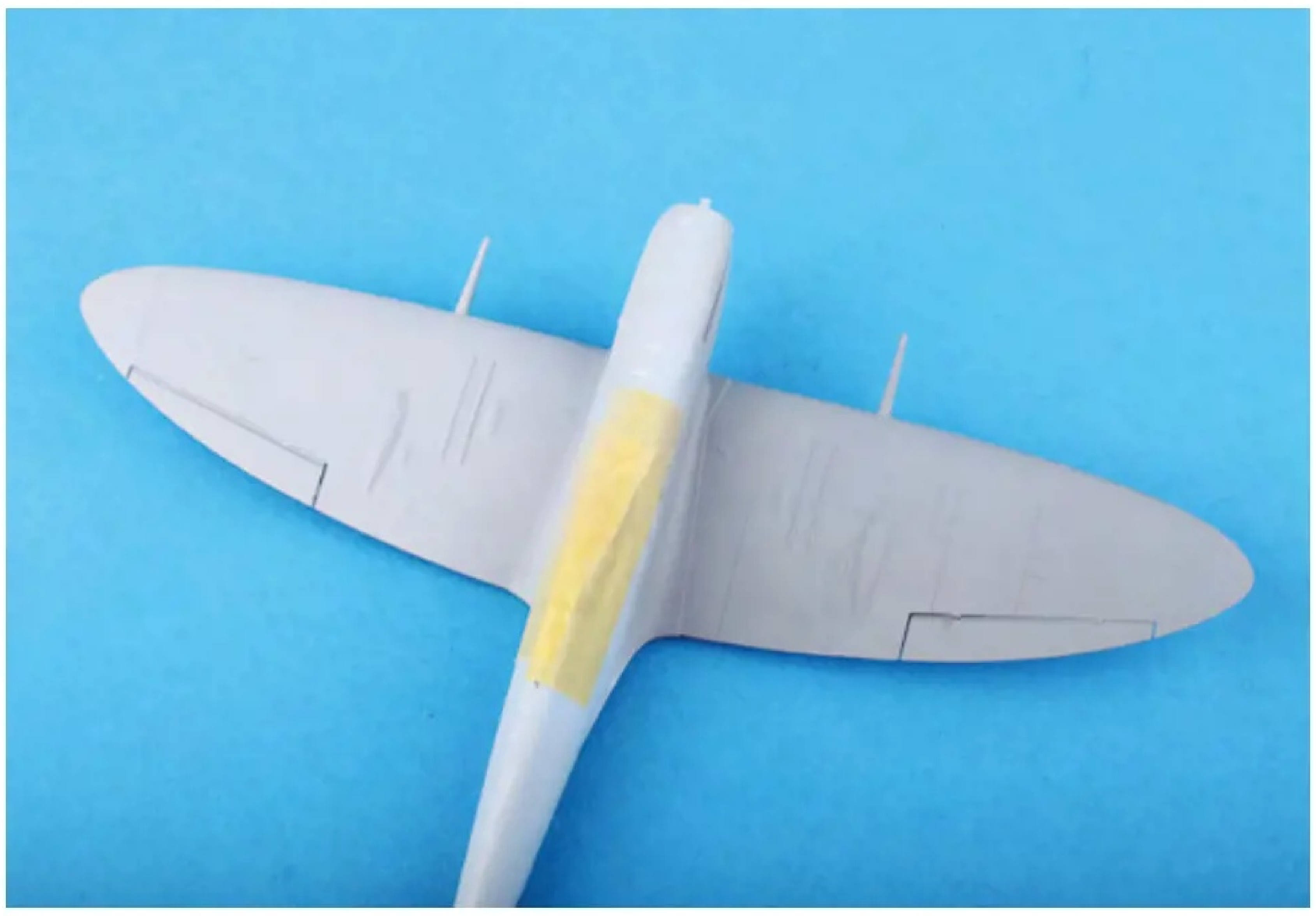
The Army Painter (www.airbrushes.com)
CP3029S Colour Primer Ash Grey

Tamiya (www.hobbyco.net)
XF-2 White
XF-60 Dark Yellow

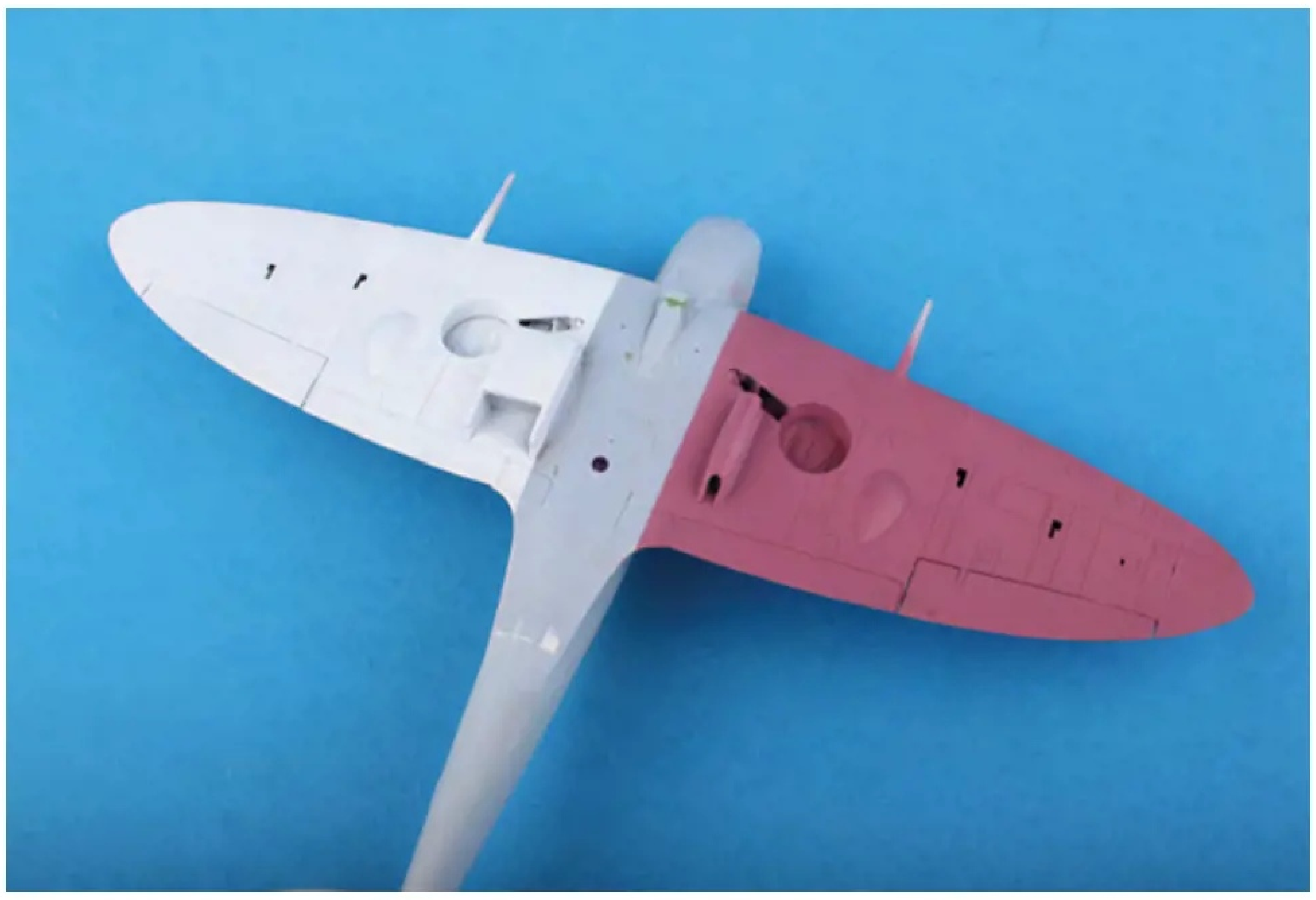
Ultimate Modelling Products (www.umpretail.com)
UMP137 Ultimate Primer Pink

Vallejo (www.creativemodels.co.uk)
74.604 German Dark Yellow Primer

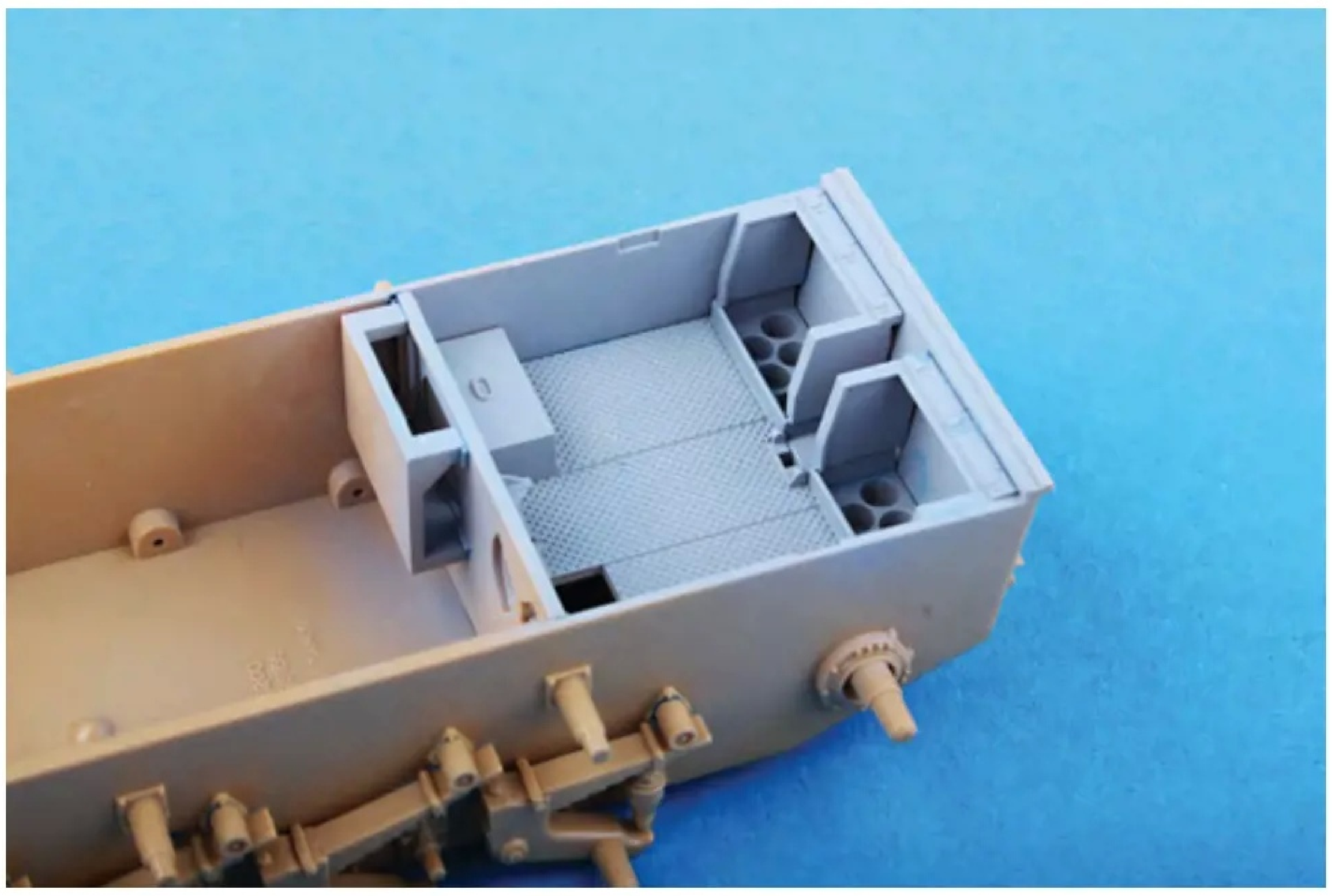
VMS (www.albionhobbies.com)
WMS.PR01 No Peel Primer No.1 White



▲ The Airfix Spitfire received two aerosol-applied grey primers on its upper wings. Mr. Hobby's Mr. Finishing Surfacer 1500 was used on the left-hand wing, while The Army Painter's grey primer (originally intended for wargamers) covered the right. Both provided similar results, although the latter needed sanding lightly as the surface was slightly rough.



▲ Different colour acrylic primers featured on the Spitfire's undersides, these being base layers for the later red and yellow treatments. Both are relatively new products, in the shape of VMS' White No-peel Surface Primer, and UMP's Pink Ultimate Primer. They exhibited excellent coverage, a tough finish, were unharmed by the tape test, and could be sprayed straight from the bottle... although check the instructions for recommended airbrush pressures.



▲ One advantage of the airbrush-applied primers (or hand-painted) is the ability to work them into tight spaces without flooding the surrounding areas, such as here on the rear decking of Tamiya's Wespe – note, the blue adhesive stains have all been covered by AMMO's A-Stand Primer & Microfiller, itself a derivative of the original Alclad II product.

as in part it comes down to personal choice, but the increasing prevalence of acrylic paints (which give off less fumes than other types) has led to an arguably greater need for a preparatory/base layer, although recent formulations have reduced this potential 'gotcha'. Of the three roles for a primer discussed earlier, a unified surface is key for acrylics, as they tend to bind poorly with certain resin and photo-etched metal components. It's also worth mentioning that you don't need a bespoke primer for gap/seam checking, as any contrasting paint will do.

For this article, three subjects were selected to show the primer's role when dealing with dissimilar surfaces, blemishes and the need for a base layer. Those chosen represent three genres: NuNu's 1/24 BMW 320i, the Airfix 1/48 Spitfire Mk.V and Tamiya's 1/35 Sd.Kfz.124 Wespe, onto which different brands and colours of primer would be applied. Regardless of whether it's a primer or paint, preparation is key, and each kit was cleaned with isopropyl alcohol to remove any dust, debris or grease, which would otherwise impair the finish.

Spray or brush

Most primers trialled here were designed to be sprayed – either by airbrush (AK Interactive, AMMO, Outlaw, UMP, Vallejo and VMS) or from an aerosol can (The Army Painter, Halfords, Mr. Hobby, and Hycote). Typically most airbrushed primers needed a pressure of at least 20psi, although several required a higher setting (in accordance with product instructions) to achieve the best results. Several trials were undertaken using scrap plastic with the 'wrong' pressures used, and the results were universally poor. These tests also resulted in frequent airbrush blockages, so the best guidance to modellers is to follow the instructions for whatever primer they are using.

Three primers, by ICM, Lifecolor and UMP, could be brushed or sprayed; while the last product can be applied from the bottle regardless, the other two must be diluted if airbrushing, Here, the usual degree of experimentation for normal paint was needed to achieve the best mix of primer and respective thinner when spraying. Encouragingly, the results were roughly the same regardless of being brushed or sprayed, although the former may require a second coat for the best possible finish.

Tape trials

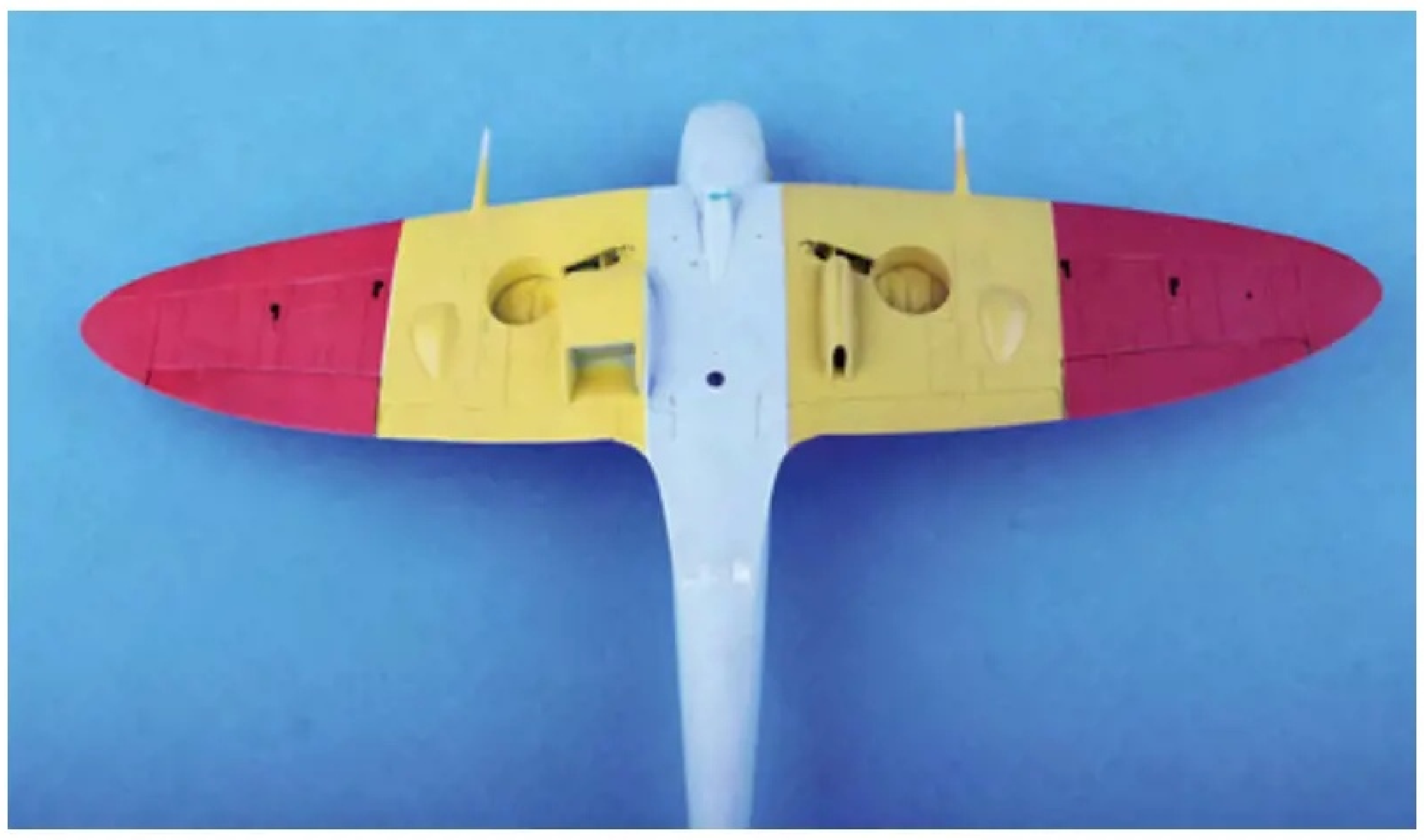
A perennial issue for modellers has been how primers can 'lift' with masking tape. Part of this will come down to preparation; ideally a surface should be cleaned properly and then sanded lightly with a fine-grade abrasive to provide a 'key' (roughening the surface creates what is known as a mechanical bond). Just the first of these was used for this article to gain a better understanding of how the binding agents fixed the primer to the model's surface.

Unsurprisingly, different forms of primer bind in different ways. With apologies to chemists and paint specialists, I'll keep these explanations simple. Lacquers are often described as being 'hot' in that their binding agents essentially melt and fuse with the styrene (often described as etching a model's surface), resulting in an extremely strong bond. With an acrylic, there is a polymer-type binding agent, which acts as a cement, fixing it to the surface. Consequently, an acrylic typically has a weaker bond than a lacquer and this can be broken when masking tape is removed (ie the tape's stickiness to the acrylic is stronger than the acrylic's to the styrene).

All primers were duly given a 'tape test' whereby a 50mm length of 18mm-wide Tamiya tape was attached firmly to the primed surface and then removed quickly. Of all the products tested, there were no catastrophic failures with whole sections lifting... instead there were several issues noted along edges, either where cleaning hadn't been as thorough, or where the styrene had been polished (it appears to be one situation where an ultra-smooth surface may work against the modeller). Additionally, several of the more modern acrylic primers (from Lifecolor, VMS and UMP) were notable for their tough finish.

Tonal shifts

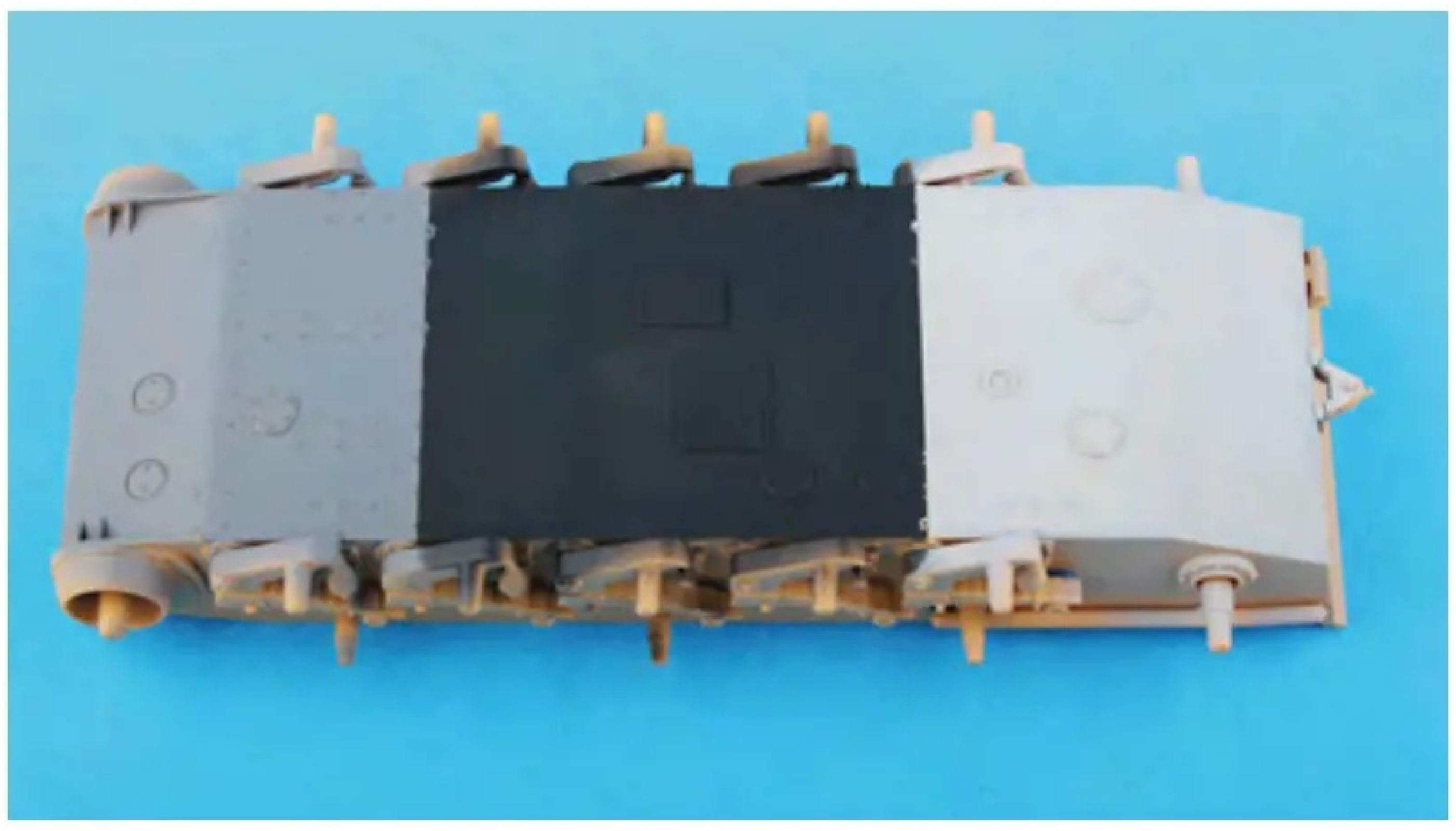
Another aspect of primers that needs mentioning, is how the colour can affect the tone of subsequent layers. This has been used by military and aircraft modellers for years when creating a modulated finish; a darker primer is particularly useful for creating pre-shade effects and there are often examples of this in *AMW*. For this article, the lower hull of Tamiya's Wespe was employed as a demonstration; tape was used to divide it into three sections, with light grey (ICM), black (Outlaw) and dark grey (AMMO) then applied. Once dry, Tamiya's XF-60 Dark Yellow was diluted and sprayed in light layers, with the results being visible in the photos.



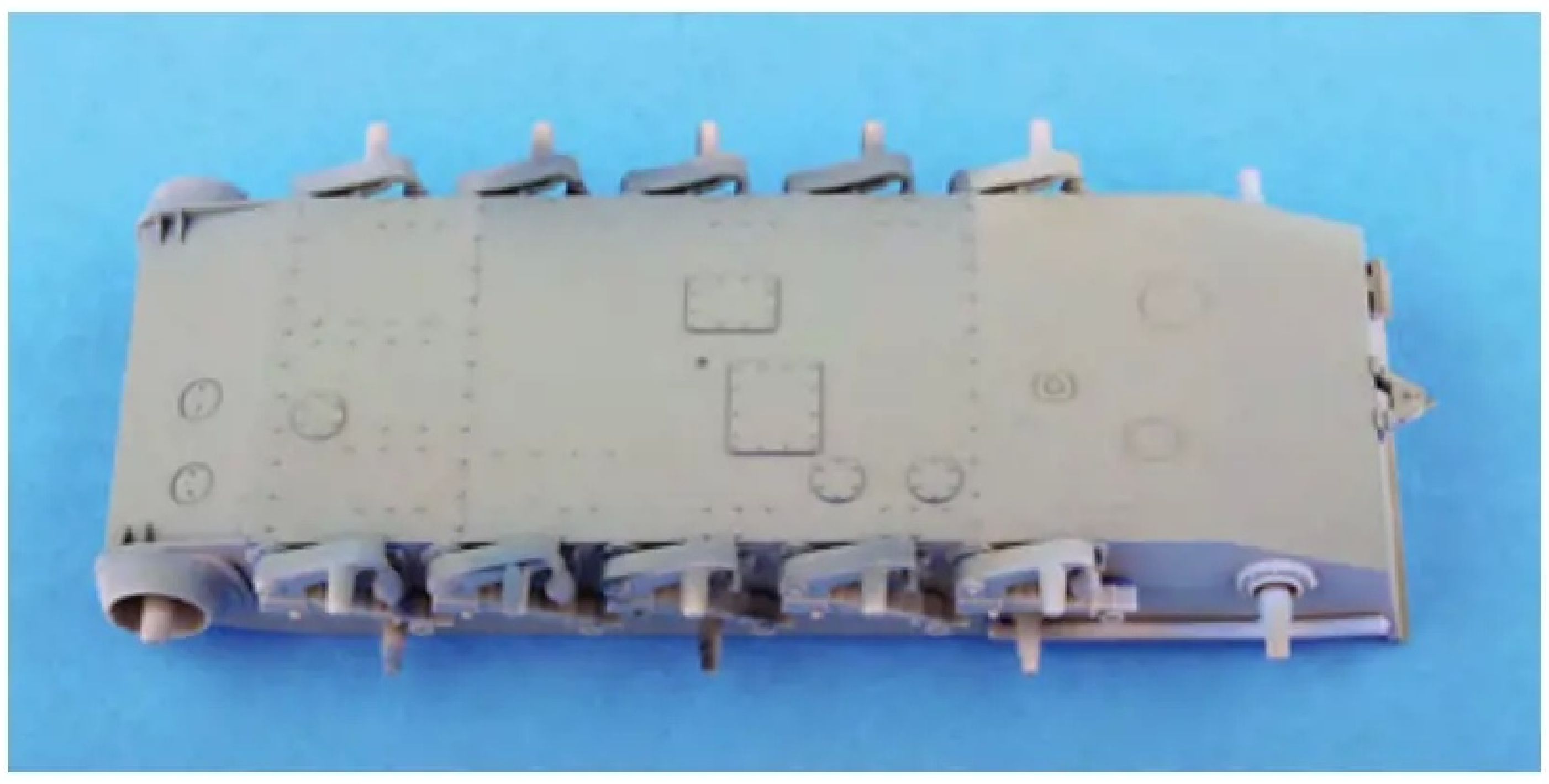
▲ Each Spitfire wing was halved to illustrate how both the pink and white primers can be ideal bases for colours such as yellow and red. Outlaw's Trainer Yellow and Mr. Hobby's RLM 23 Red were used here, with the white base providing a brighter result, while the pink offers a richer, 'warmer' colour.

▲ Just as a camouflage colour can be affected, so can the shades used on auto models – here Revell's Carmine Red spray has been applied and there's a subtle difference in tone between the lighter and darker primers.

Another question often asked by *AMW* readers is which primer/base colours are best for the likes of red, yellow and white topcoats? For many years, the perceived wisdom was that white (which gives a 'brighter' hue to the overlying colour) was best for all, but recently, pink has emerged as a perhaps surprising alternative base for red and yellow, as the subsequent paint takes on a 'richer' tone… light tan shades are also useful for yellow. With an increasing focus on shadow and tonal variations by some modellers, darker bases have even become prevalent for a white topcoat. Black can provide striking, if too stark a result, with a dark brown or even red-brown colour being favoured.



▲ Tamiya's Wespe hull acted as the tonal testbed, being divided into three sections for dark grey (AMMO One-shot), black (Outlaw) and light grey (ICM) primers. Coverage of all was generally good, and they resisted the tape test admirably, although the acrylics (ICM and AMMO) would require a second coat for better opacity.



▲ A suitable diluted mix of XF-60 Dark Yellow was airbrushed over the hull, building the effect gradually, with fewer layers at the top to show how modulation can be achieved just by varying how much paint is applied. Note the differences in tone over the three primer colours.

You'll notice there haven't been any overall recommendations for particular primers. While some appeared to perform better than others in the test conditions (and the *AMW* team has it's own preferences), in the end, the decision will always be a modeller's personal choice.

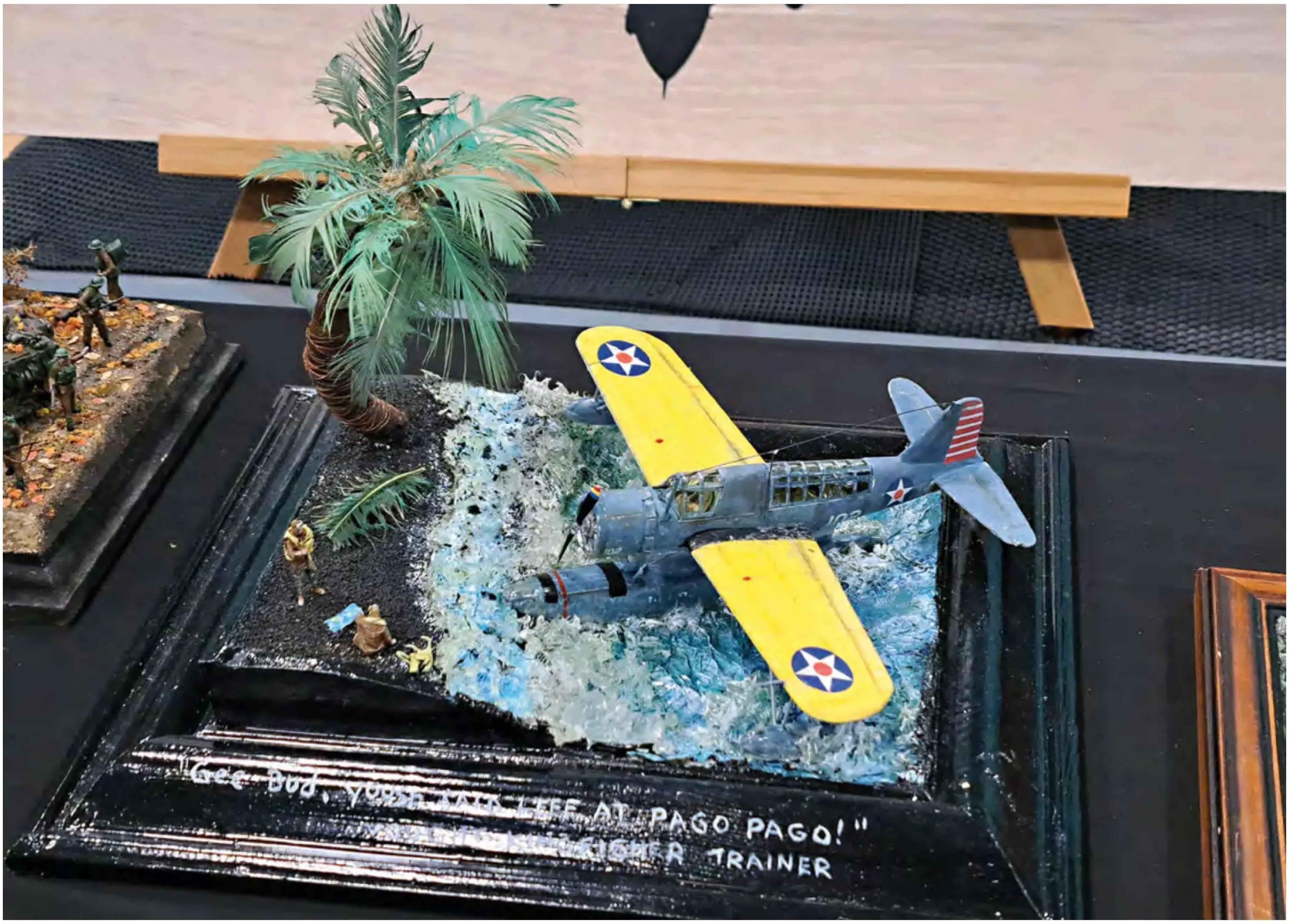
ADHESIVES

The next *Back to Basics* article – scheduled for the January 2026 issue – will focus on the sticky business of adhesives.

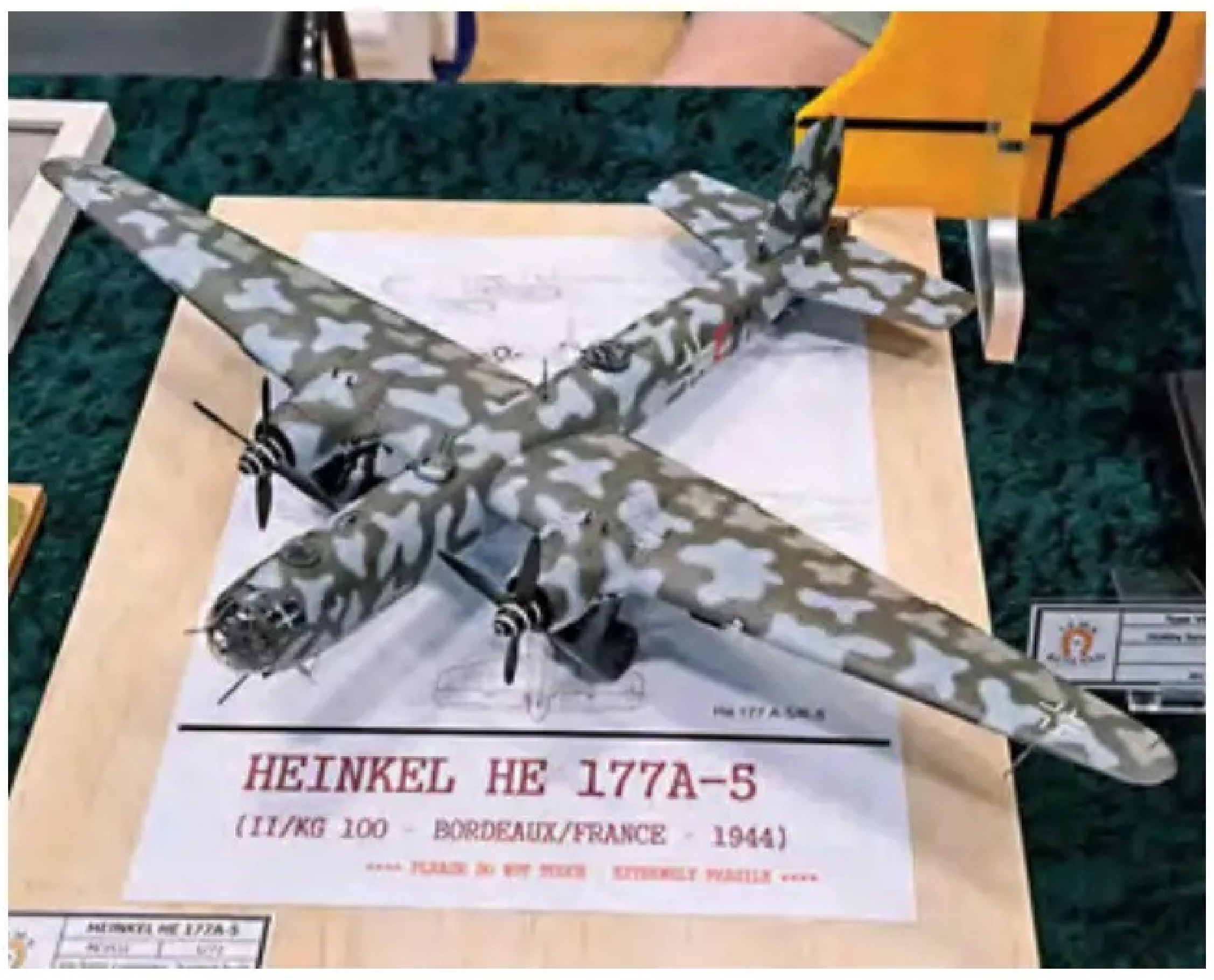
Humbrol™
NEW Gen 3 Acrylic Model Colour
Made in the UK
NATURAL W
Humbrol Gen 3 Acrylic Matt Model Colour No. 110 17ml
NOW 17ml 3ml extra in each dropper
Our best ever formula
◆ A joy to use on resin, plastic wood, ceramic, metal & card
◆ Superior coverage & high pigmentation
A17001A
18 Orange DB0018
19 Bright Red DB0019
24 Trainer Yellow Matt DB0024
26 Khaki Matt DB0026
30 Dark Green Matt DB0030
33 Black Matt DB0033
34 White Matt DB0034
60 Scarlet Matt DB0060
61 Flesh Matt DB0061
62 Leather Matt DB0062
70 Brick Red Matt DB0070
74 Linen Matt DB0074
78 Cockpit Green Matt DB0078
90 Beige Green Matt DB0090
153 Insignia Red Matt DB0153
186 Brown Matt DB0186
165 Medium Sea Grey Matt DB0165
with many more colours
◆ NEW hybrid self-levelling system: Consistent smooth finish
◆ First colours IN STOCK NOW
Humbrol.com

FENLAND SCORCHER!

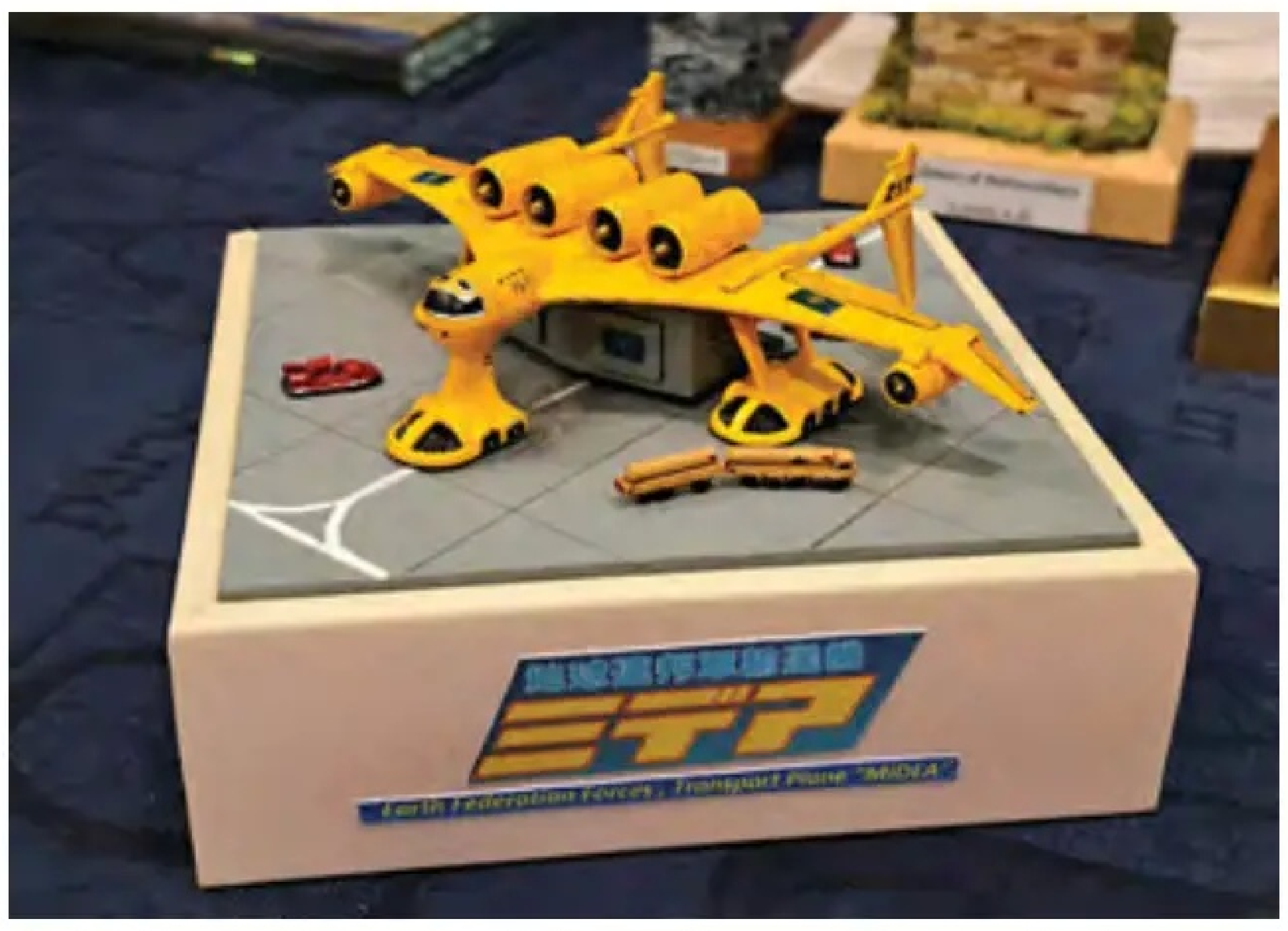
Despite the attraction of one of the year's warmest days, modellers and the public reserved time to visit the West Anglia Scale Model Show, hosted by the West Norfolk club at its now regular Littleport Leisure Centre venue. Thanks to a revised table layout and an additional room, more traders and displays were incorporated than previously, creating even more of a buzz – especially in the main hall. The hot weather was ably compensated for, thanks



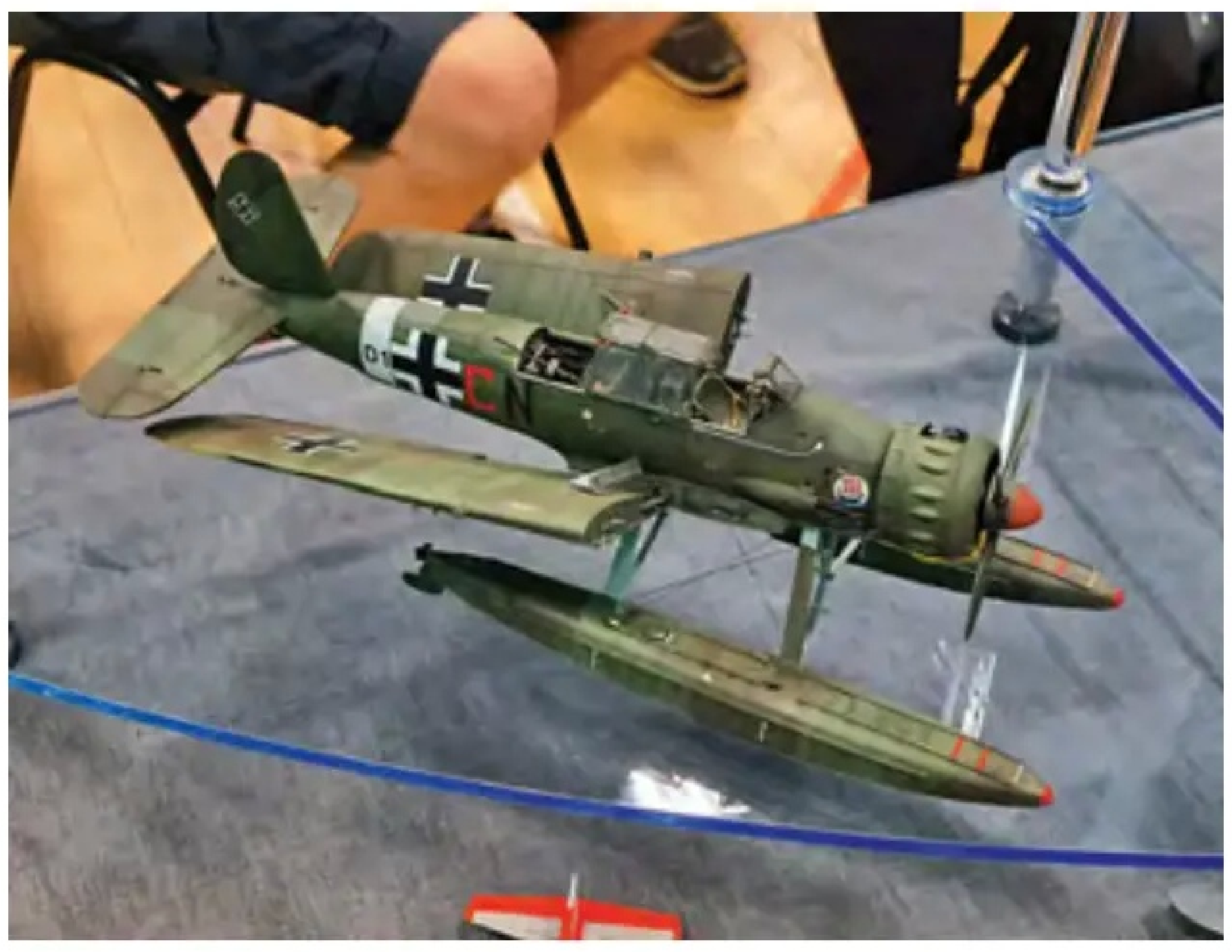
▲ Waveney modeller Rob Cousin's '*Gee bud, you said left at Pago Pago*' diorama featured a fuel-starved Sword 1/72 Vought OS2U Kingfisher, which had been run aground on a tropical island, with the crew resting on the beach as they figure what to do next.



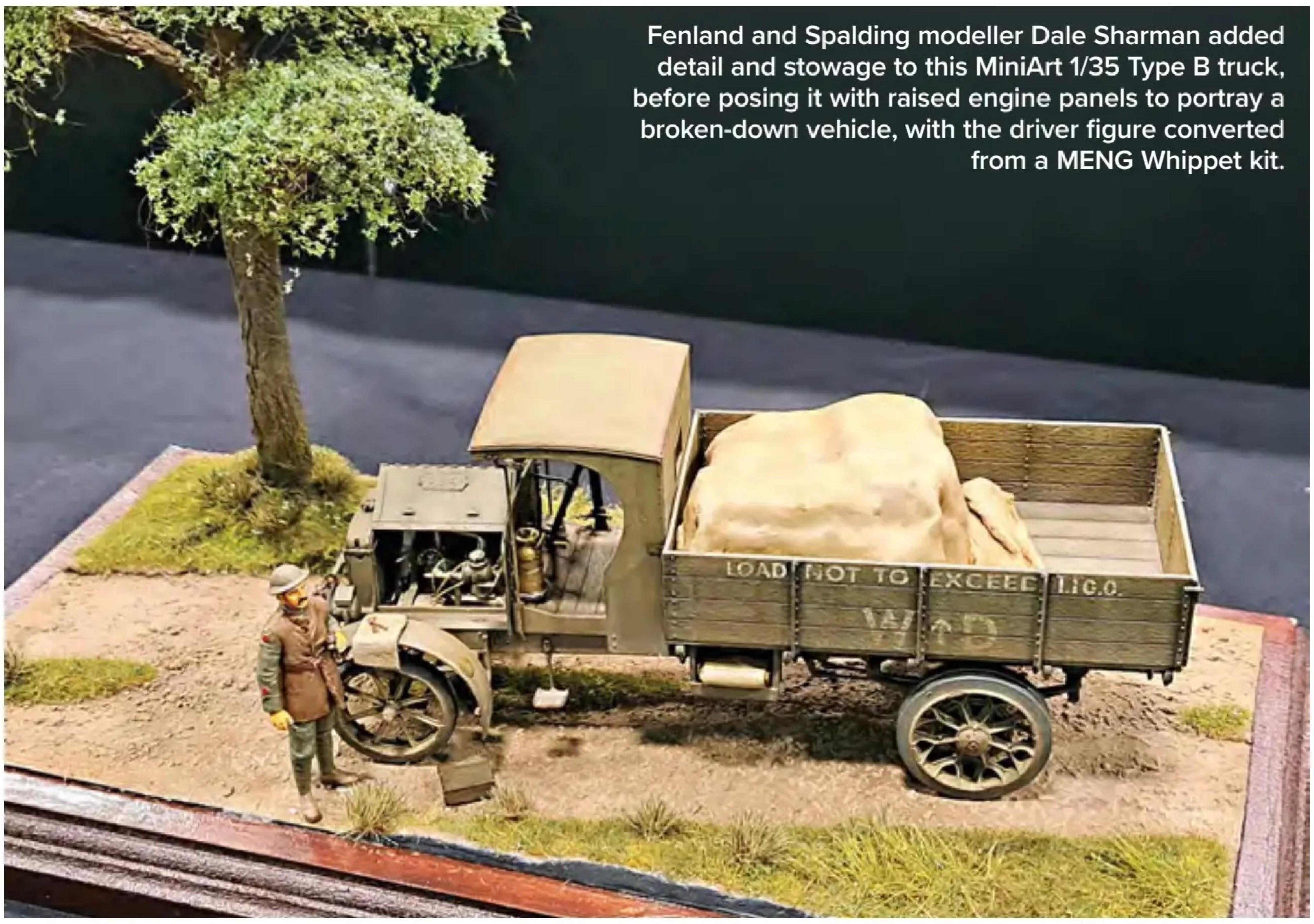
▲ This beautifully airbrushed Revell 1/72 Heinkel He 117A-5 by IPMS Rutland's Marco Costa featured replacement vac-form canopies, plus a scratch-built interior, and was finished as a KG 100 machine.



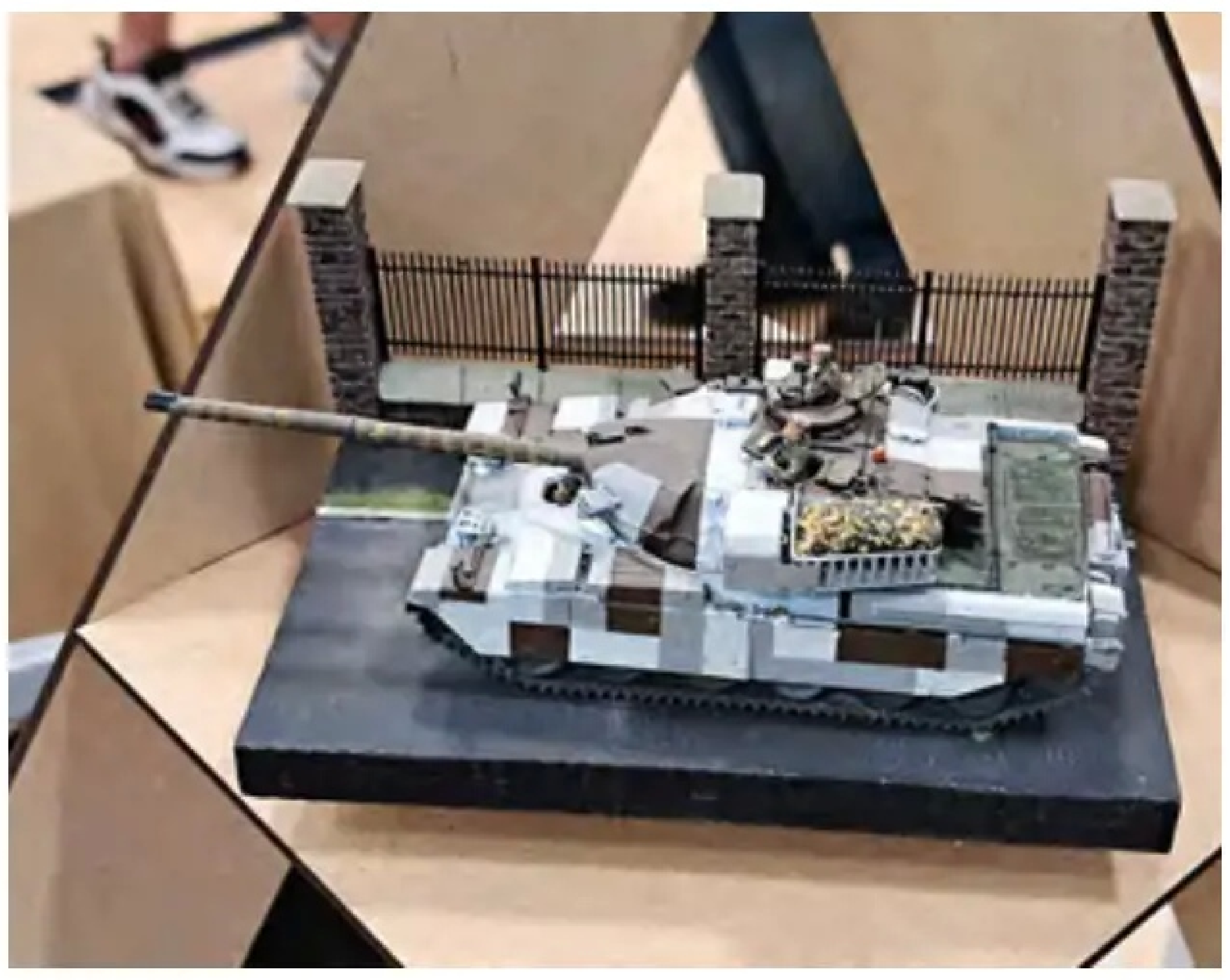
▲ And now for something rather unusual… in the shape of Bandai's Gundam-associated MIDEA transport, as operated by that title's Earth Federation Forces. This well-made model by Letchworth's Mick Jones drew the attention of many, thanks to its strange shape and striking colours.



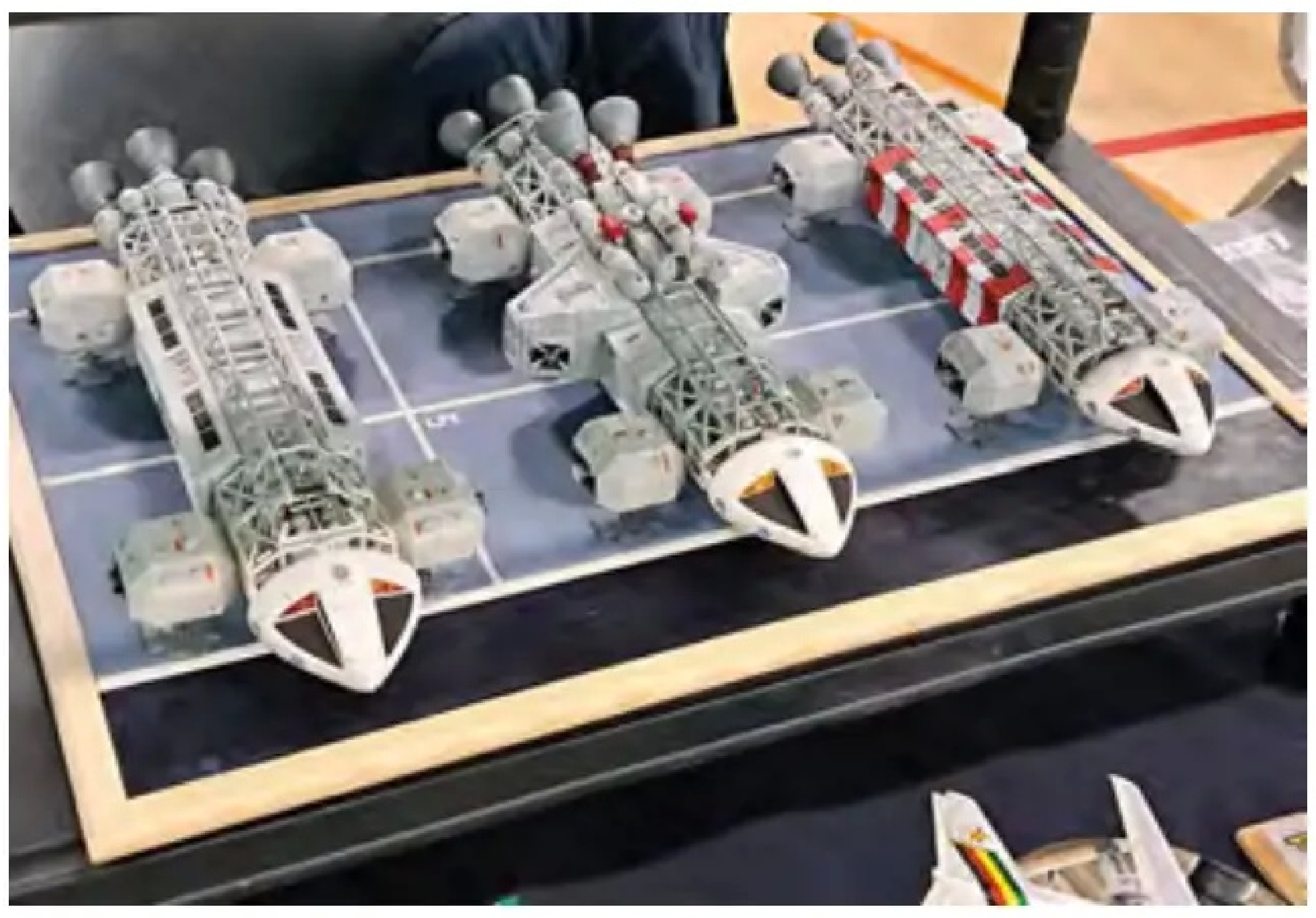
▲ This Revell 1/32 Arado Ar 196A-3 was rescued from the dreaded modelling 'shelf of doom' by Bedford + District's Richard Page, who then added considerable amounts of extra detail to the cockpit and engine.



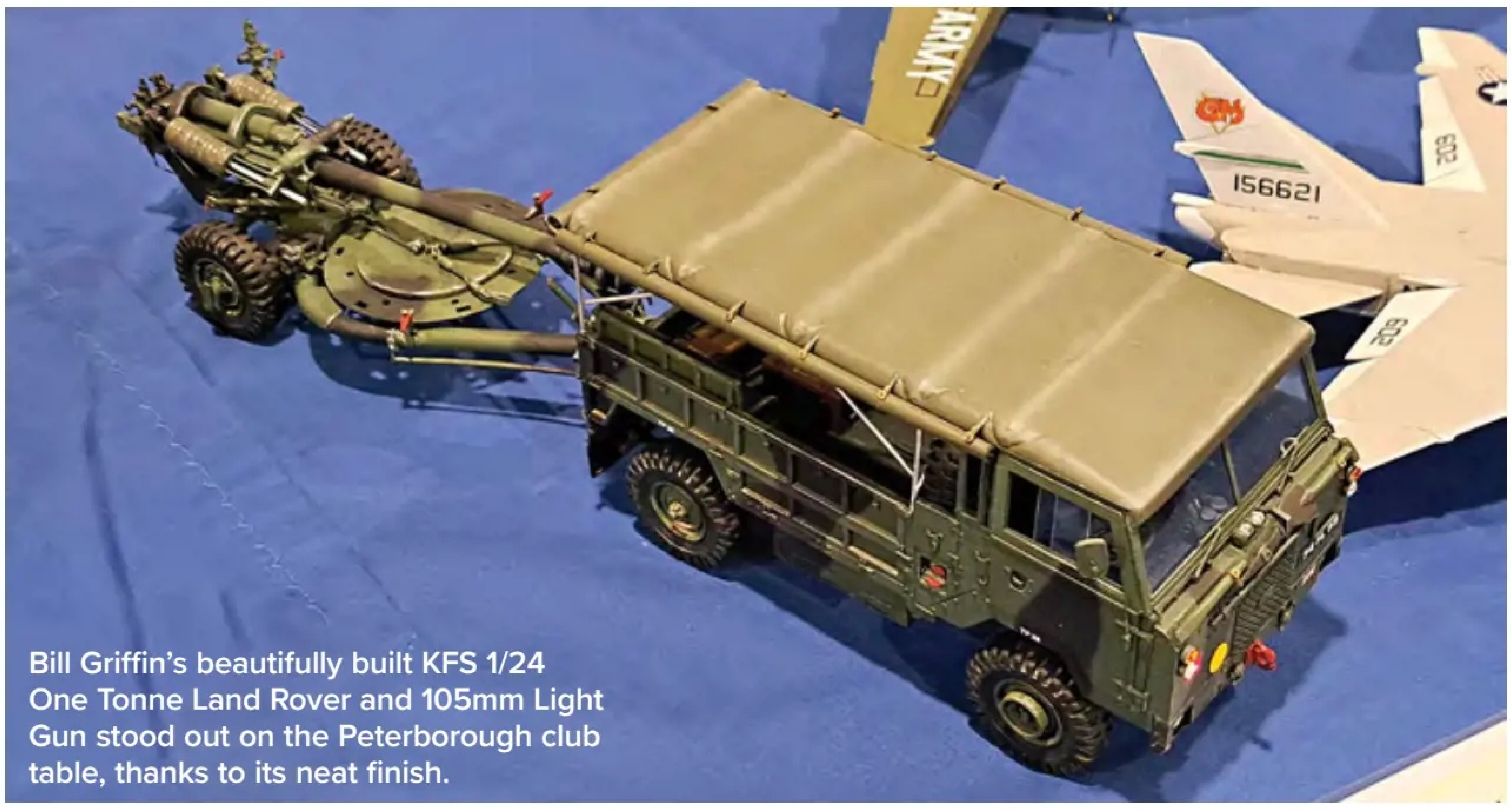
Fenland and Spalding modeller Dale Sharman added detail and stowage to this MiniArt 1/35 Type B truck, before posing it with raised engine panels to portray a broken-down vehicle, with the driver figure converted from a MENG Whippet kit.



▲ This Berlin-based, urban-camouflage painted Chieftain Mk.10 was built by Models for Heroes member John Mayfield using the Takom 1/72 kit... and plenty of careful brushwork.



▲ This trio of MPC 1/72 Eagle Transporters from the TV series *Space:1999* was built by IPMS Avon's Mike Bradley, depicting (L-R) a standard passenger/transport, laboratory pod and spine booster equipped version and possibly the most well-known variant... the Rescue Eagle.



Bill Griffin's beautifully built KFS 1/24 One Tonne Land Rover and 105mm Light Gun stood out on the Peterborough club table, thanks to its neat finish.

to strategically placed fans, which allowed everyone to move around without breaking into a sweat.

There was something available for everyone, whether that was on the traders' stands or on the many and varied club and Special Interest Group (SIG) displays. This event has gone from strength to strength since moving to the Littleport venue, and I'm already looking forward to next year's show.

Stu Fone

Humbrol™

NEW Gen 3 Acrylic Model Colour

Made in the UK

NATURAL WO
Humbrol Gen 3 Acrylic Matt Model Colour No. 110 17ml

NOW 17ml
3ml extra in each dropper

Our best ever formula

- A joy to use on resin, plastic wood, ceramic, metal & card
- Superior coverage & high pigmentation
- Brilliant for brush painting & Airbrushing

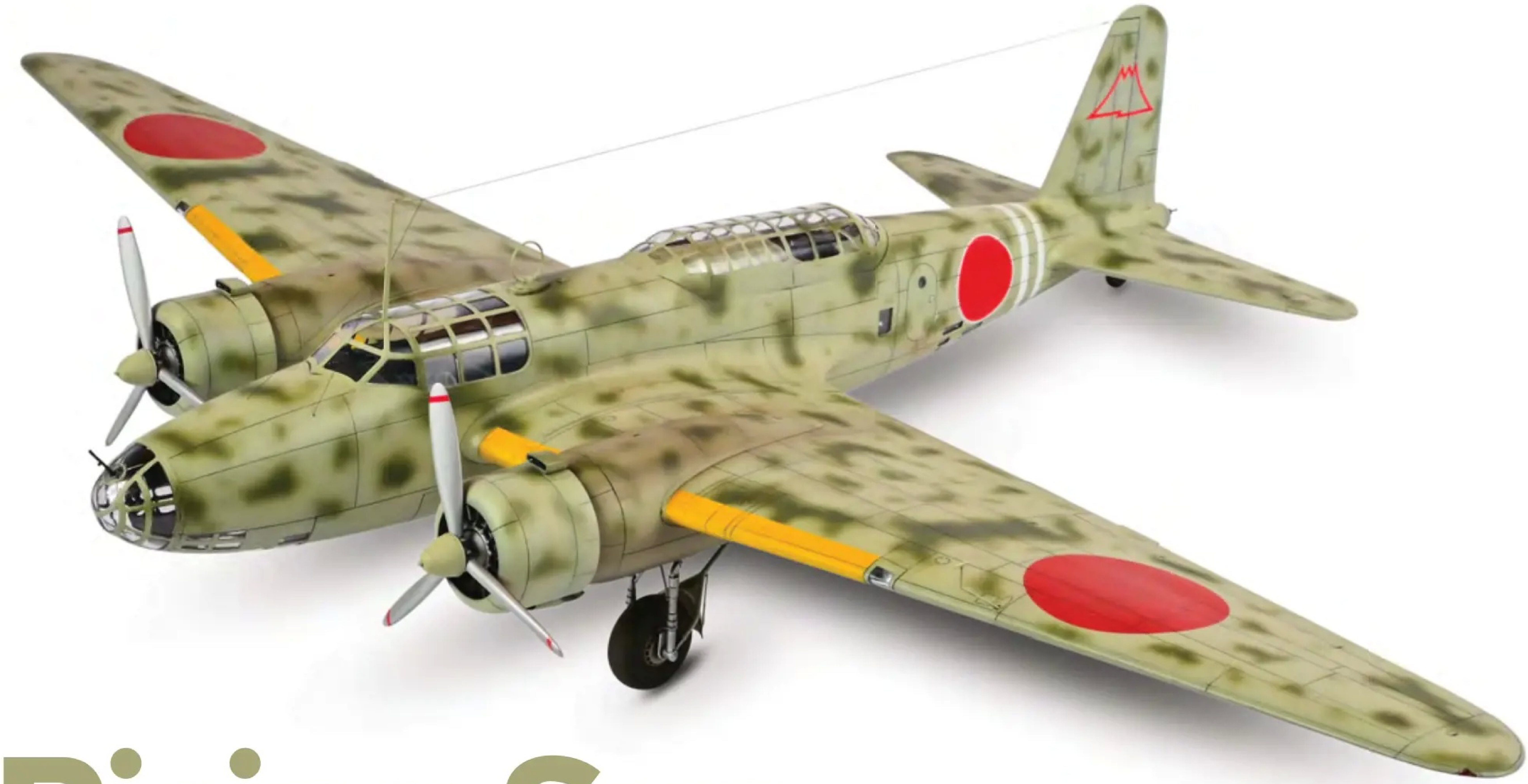
A05137

NEW MAX-Shine Metallics: Add brilliant shine to your models

Silver 11 Metallic	DB0011	Copper 12 Metallic	DB0012	Gold 16 Metallic	DB0016
Baltic Blue 52 Metallic	DB0052	Gunmetal 53 Metallic	DB0053	Brass 54 Metallic	DB0054
Bronze 55 Metallic	DB0055	Aluminium 56 Metallic	DB0056	Chrome Silver 191 Metallic	DB0191
Black 201 Metallic	DB0201				

with many more finishes & varnishes too

First colours IN STOCK NOW at retailers & Humbrol.com



Rising Sun Bomber

Alan Price looks beyond his usual European wartime subjects to tackle an aircraft from the Pacific Theatre, with ICM's 1/48 Japanese Ki-21-Ib Sally

Before the opportunity to build this kit arose, I was thinking of tackling several World War Two Japanese subjects. This was purely because I had built hardly any in the past and the current choice is both interesting and varied. Ukraine's ICM has released several versions of the Ki-21 Sally in 1/72 and 1/48 – and the boxing highlighted here replicates the 1b version, which was equipped with improved defensive armament. Seven light grey styrene runners carry well-moulded parts, with no flash or blemishes evident. The plastic is soft and the large parts are quite thin, which means they can bend easily. The styrene is also rather fragile, breaking with ease, and care must be taken while removing thin parts from the runners to avoid unnecessary damage. A single clear runner holds the canopy glazing, these parts being thin and crystal clear. Comprehensive instructions and a large decal sheet complete the contents.

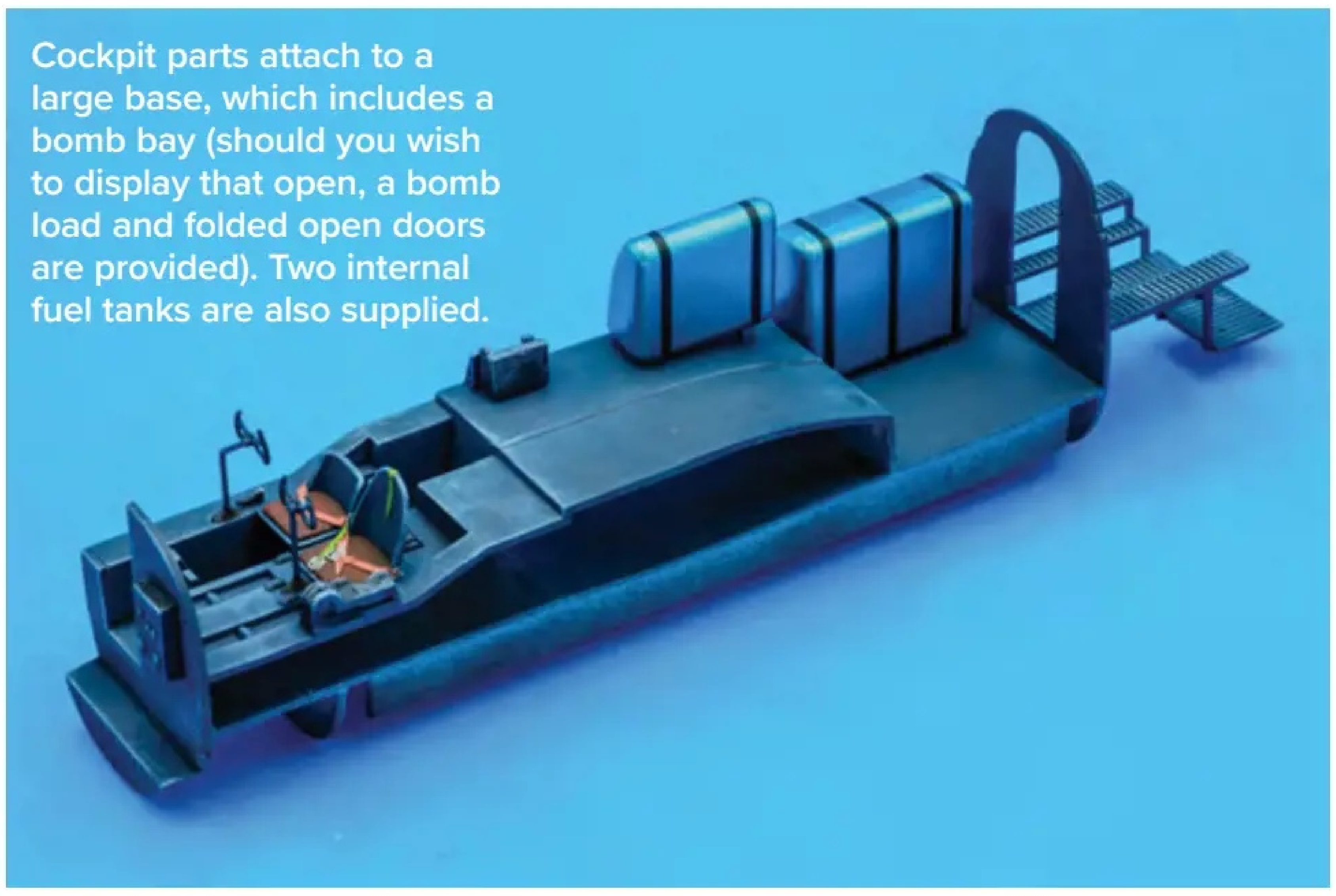
MODEL SPEC

Ki-21-Ib 'Sally'
By: ICM
Stock Code: 48195
Scale: 1/48
Price: £59.80
Available from: www.hobbyco.net

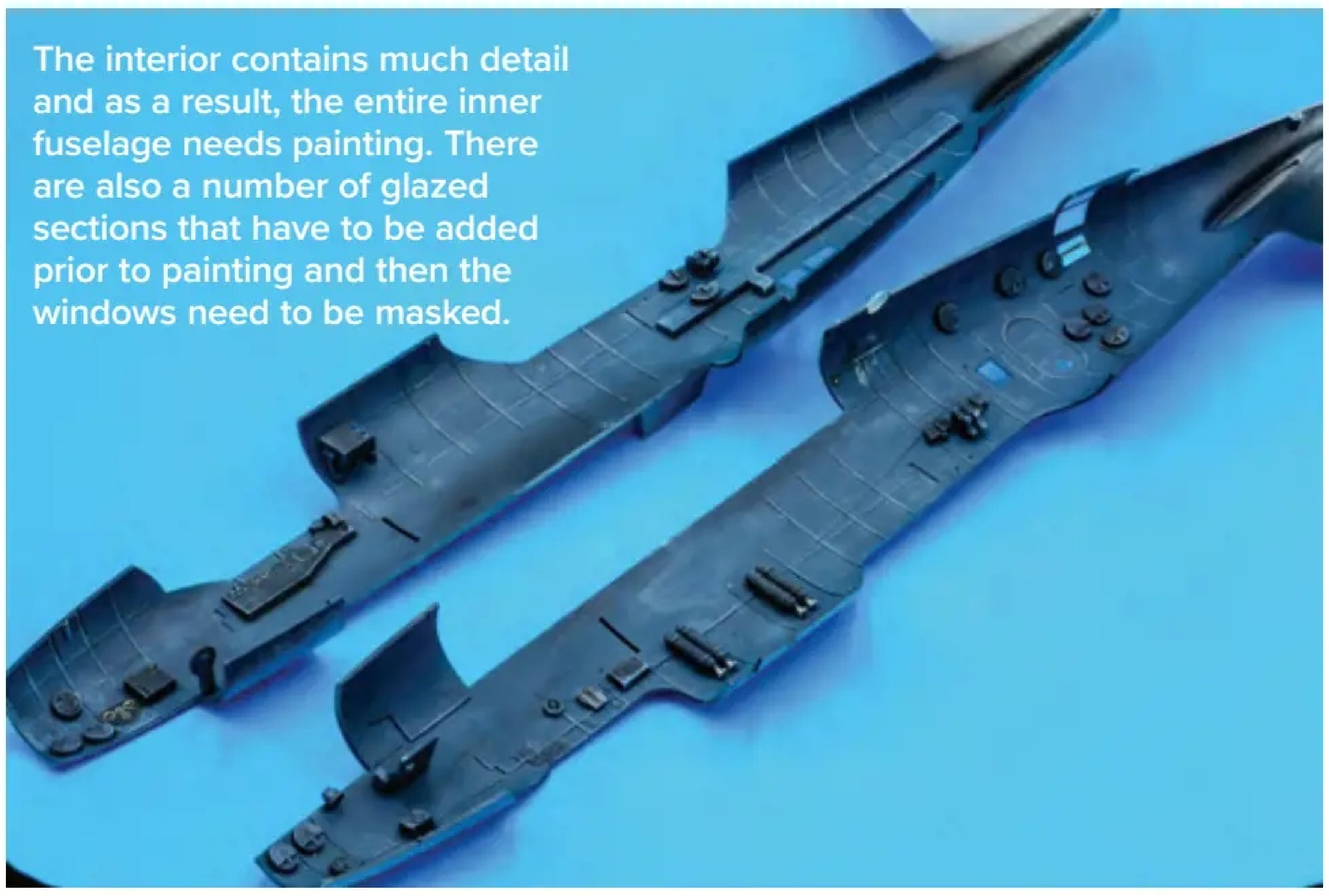
MODEL KIT No 48195
Ki-21-Ib 'Sally'
Japanese Heavy Bomber
ICM
1:48
SCALE
MADE IN UKRAINE

Markings for the following airframes are provided:

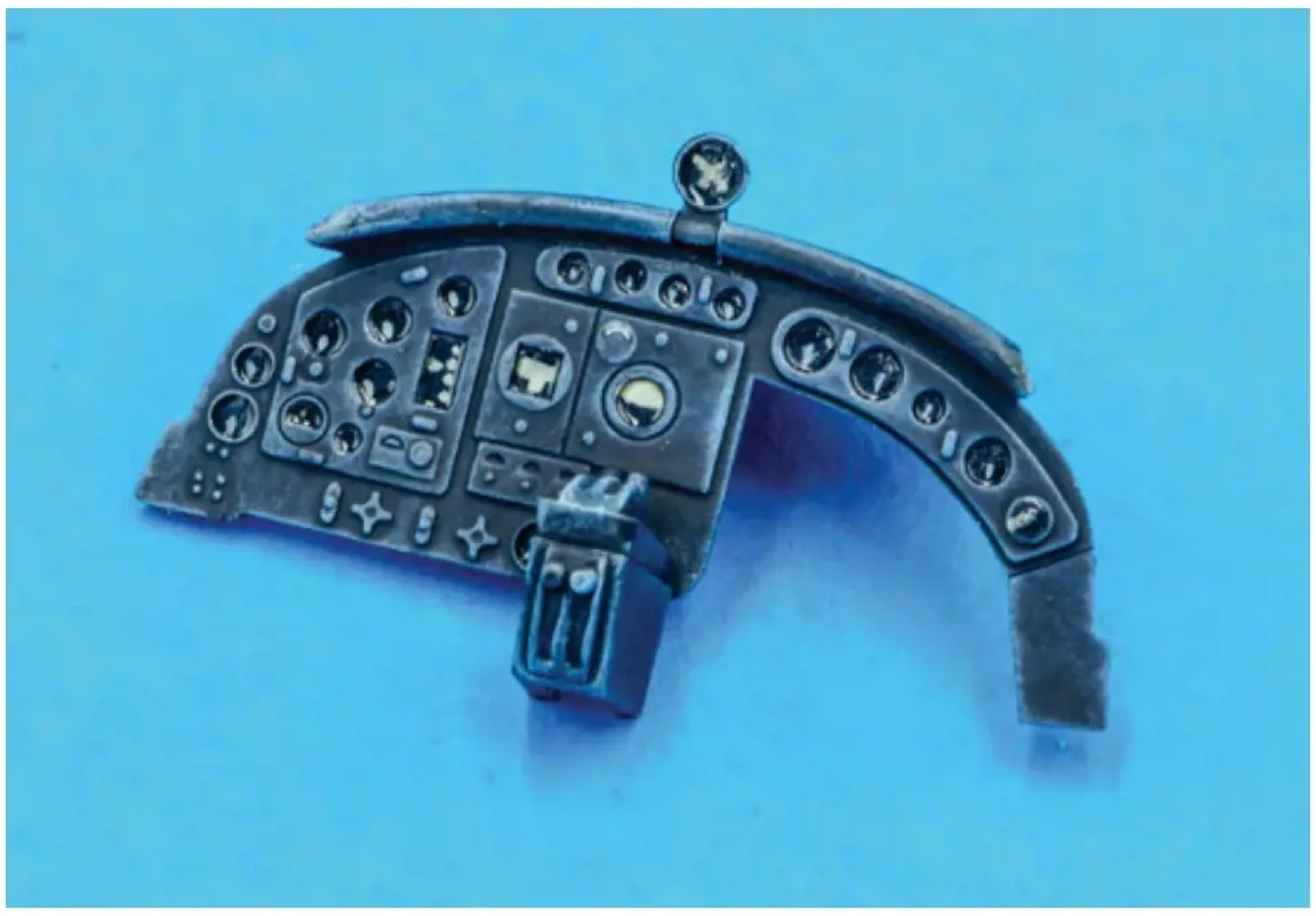
- 60th Sentai (60th Air Group), China 1940



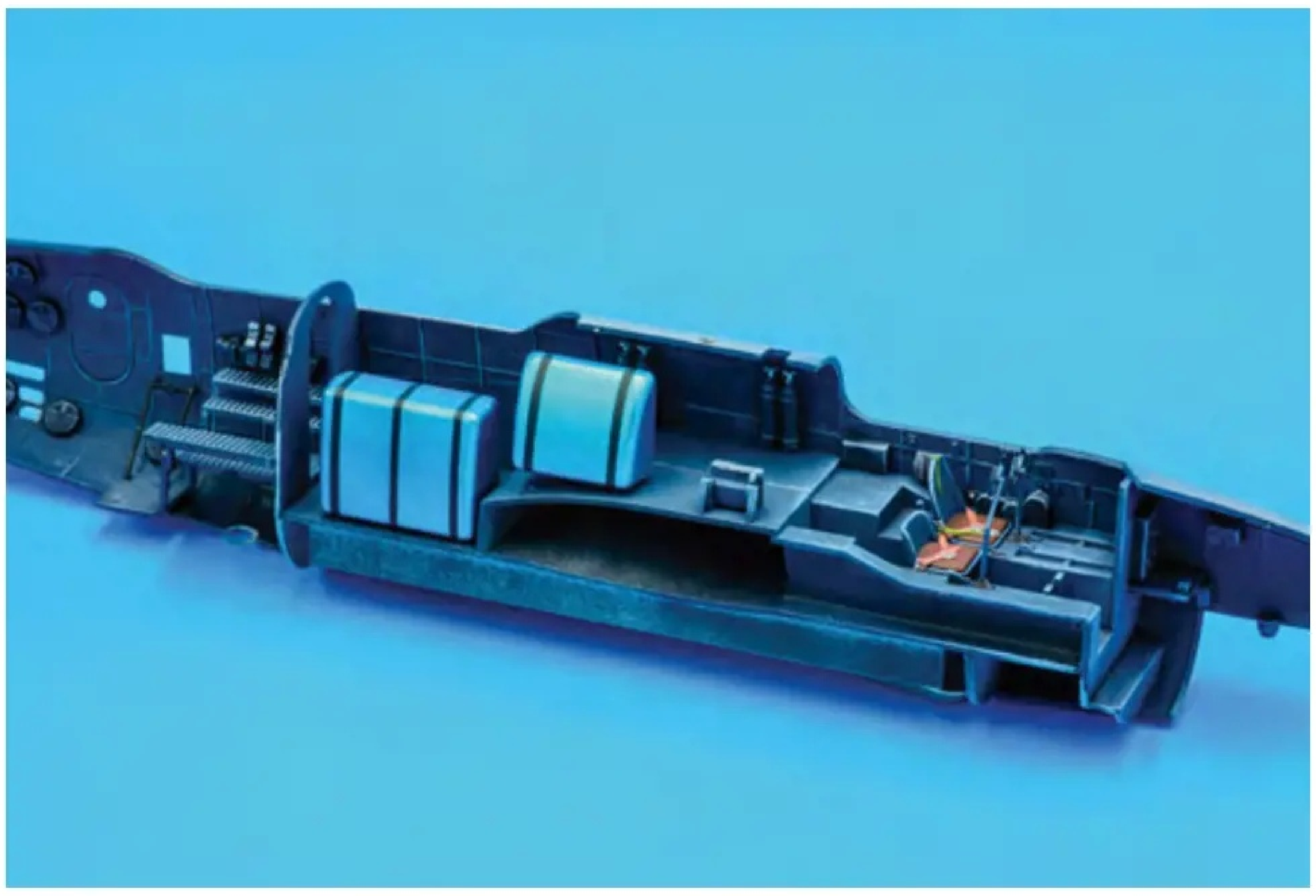
Cockpit parts attach to a large base, which includes a bomb bay (should you wish to display that open, a bomb load and folded open doors are provided). Two internal fuel tanks are also supplied.



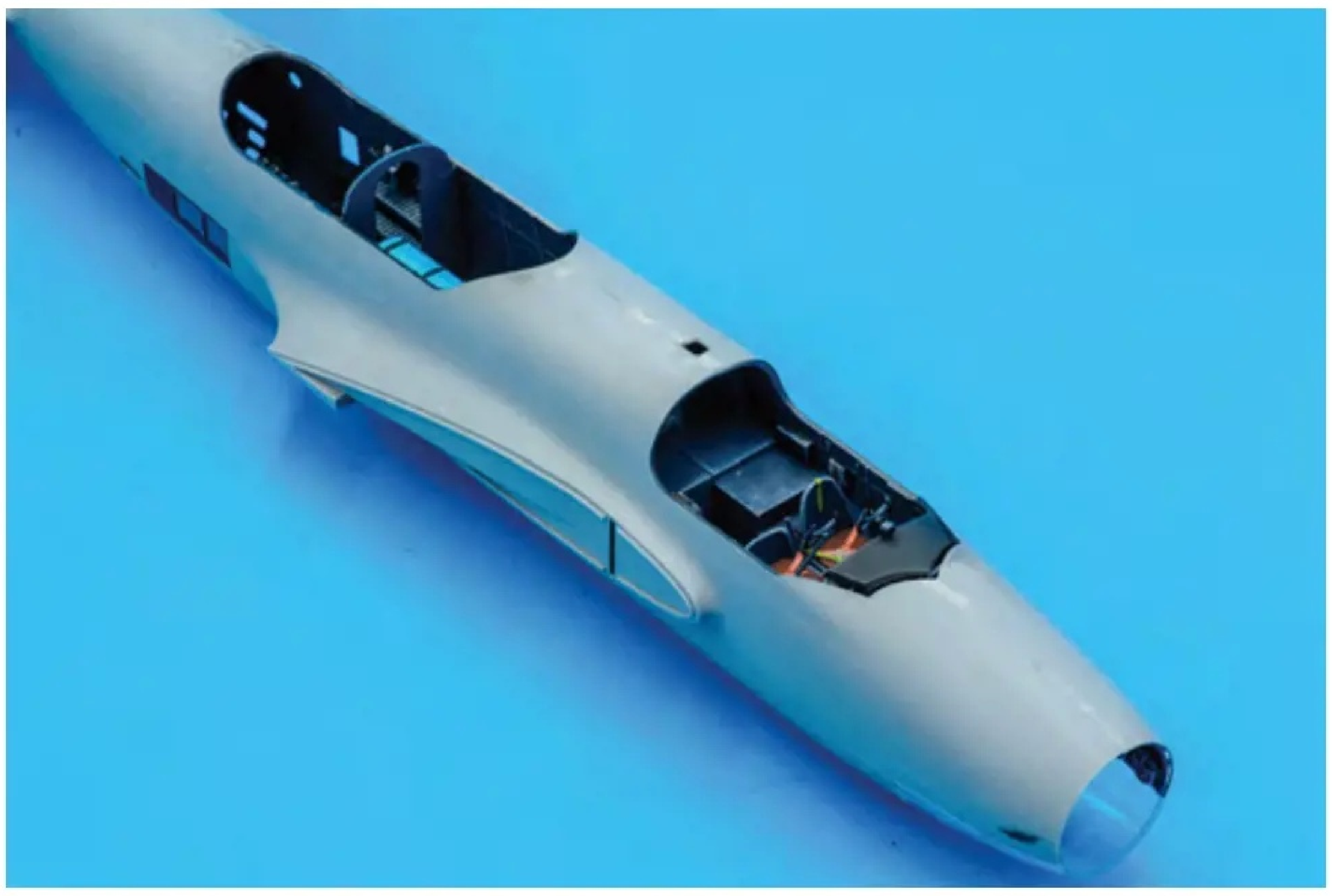
The interior contains much detail and as a result, the entire inner fuselage needs painting. There are also a number of glazed sections that have to be added prior to painting and then the windows need to be masked.



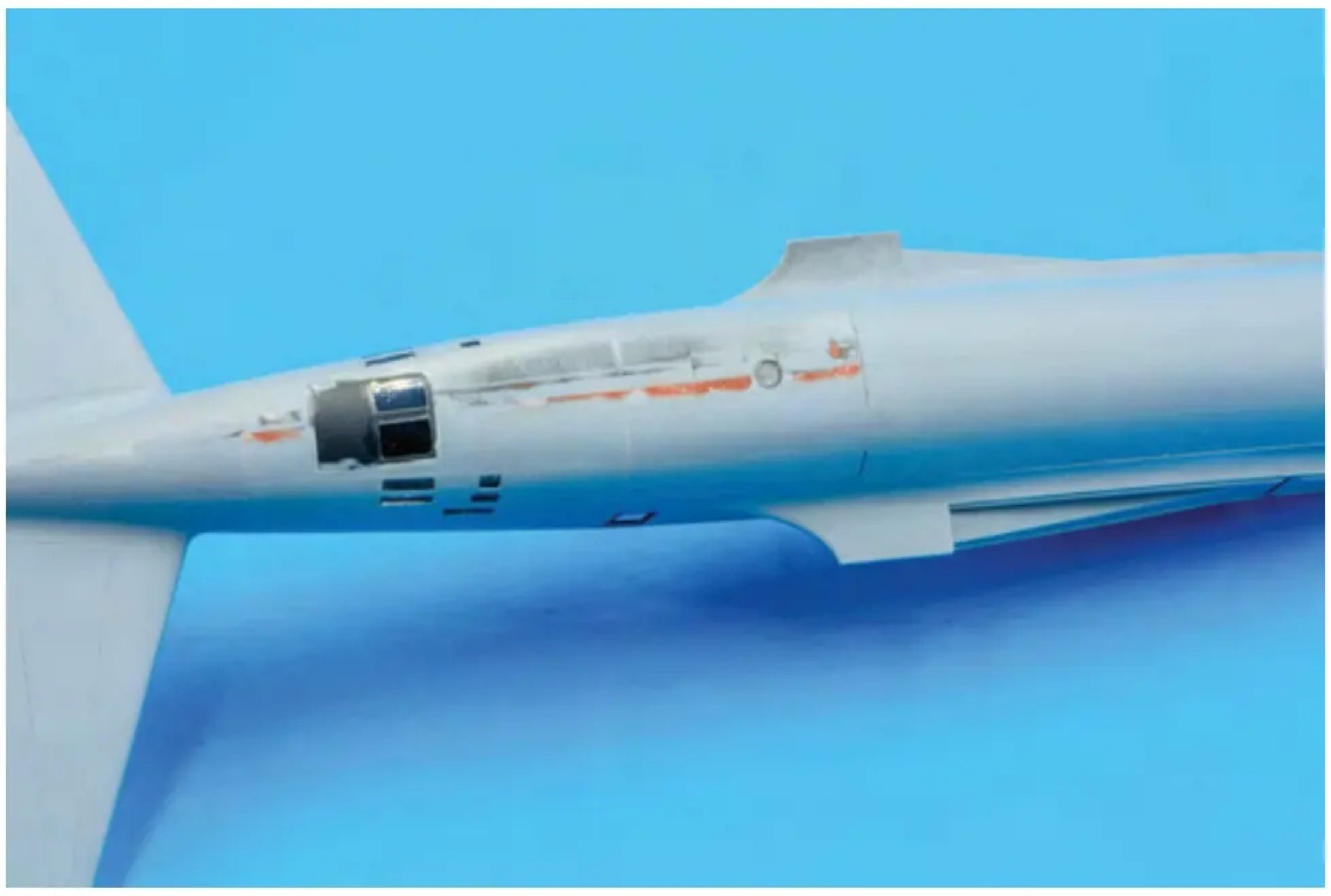
▲ The instrument panel is well detailed and I decided it would look better painted rather than using the kit decal.



▲ Here, the completed interior has been assembled into the port fuselage half. It's a shame that much of the detail aft of the cockpit is almost impossible to view once the model is completed.



▲ Seam neatening was carried out on the assembled fuselage before tackling any more of the airframe. The fit was generally good… little remedial work being required, as can be seen here.



▲ Under the fuselage, around the glazing, a little more work was necessary on the seams. The panel holding the windows was also blended into the fuselage via filler and sanding.

- 60th Sentai 2nd Chutai (2nd Squadron), China 1940
- Hamamatsu Army Flying School, Japan, probably 1941
- 25 Hikodan, Shireibu Hikohan (25 Air Brigade HQ Flight), Japan, 1940

Three of these four subjects are in the standard overall light grey-green livery in which all Ki-21s were delivered; the fourth featured a random dark green mottle over the upper surfaces. I already had an Xtradecal aftermarket sheet (X48242) for the Ki-21, but just a single airframe was a Ki-21-Ib, notably a machine from the 2nd Chutai, 7th Kokutai, Japanese Army Air Force, Malaya, 1942. This was also in overall light grey with extensive mottling on the upper surfaces… and my chosen subject to replicate. However, out of all the markings on the decal sheet, I realised I would just be using the symbol for the fin and any stencil markings… everything else I could mask and paint myself.

Accurate interior

Building the kit began with assembling the parts required for the fuselage interior, which is well detailed and includes a busy cockpit area. Aft of here, in the enclosed compartment above the bomb bay, sit two large fuel tanks. The rear of the fuselage houses access steps and the seat for the upper gun. There are several glazed panels that must be fitted in the fuselage, and the clear panes in them then had to be masked before I could paint the interior. The colour specified by ICM was 'blue-grey' but online research revealed the consensus seemed to settle on Hai Ran Shoku – Cockpit Blue Grey – which was available in the Mr. Paint range as MRP-417. I used Mr. Hobby H63 Metallic Blue-Green Aotaki for the fuel tanks.

ICM provided a decal for the instrument panel, but I decided the latter would look better painted, so it was airbrushed matt black then dry-brushed with light grey to accentuate the detail, while a black wash enhanced the contrast. A set of Eduard seatbelts (FE1415 Ki-21-I Seatbelts STEEL) were added to the cockpit seats, to ensure more refinement and authenticity. Once painted and assembled, the interior parts were glued into one side of the fuselage before the halves were mated. The fit was impressive – the complex interior features aligned well and sat securely within the airframe. Little work was required to neaten the seams, though I did spend time ensuring the glazing blended into the fuselage sides properly and the panel lines were correctly rescribed around them.

The wings were assembled next, and here the Aotaki paint was again employed for the interior of the engine nacelle and wing, which formed the undercarriage bay. A sturdy stub spar is assembled into each wing and this provides a secure and accurate attachment point, ensuring the wings are set at the correct dihedral. I spent a while refining the landing light location in each wing, as this would be visible behind the clear cover. ▶

The assembled nacelles were the worst-fitting part of the kit and attention was required to smooth the seams ahead of the wing leading edge, the starboard wing being noticeably worse than that to port. The ICM instructions suggested assembling the undercarriage into the wing before attaching the lower part of the engine nacelle. But I felt this was simply courting disaster, whereby the delicate undercarriage could be broken easily. After checking how it was attached, it was clear that it could be fitted later quite easily... so the undercarriage was set aside until later in the build. The assembled wings were glued onto the fuselage after first adjusting the edges, where they butt-joined to the fuselage, to help ensure a tight fit. As a result, no filling was required around the wing roots. After adding the horizontal stabilisers, the major construction work was complete and I then worked on ensuring all seams were smooth, while surface detail was re-engraved where required. The entire airframe was then finished by sanding with 3,600-grade Micromesh to remove any marks and smooth the surfaces.

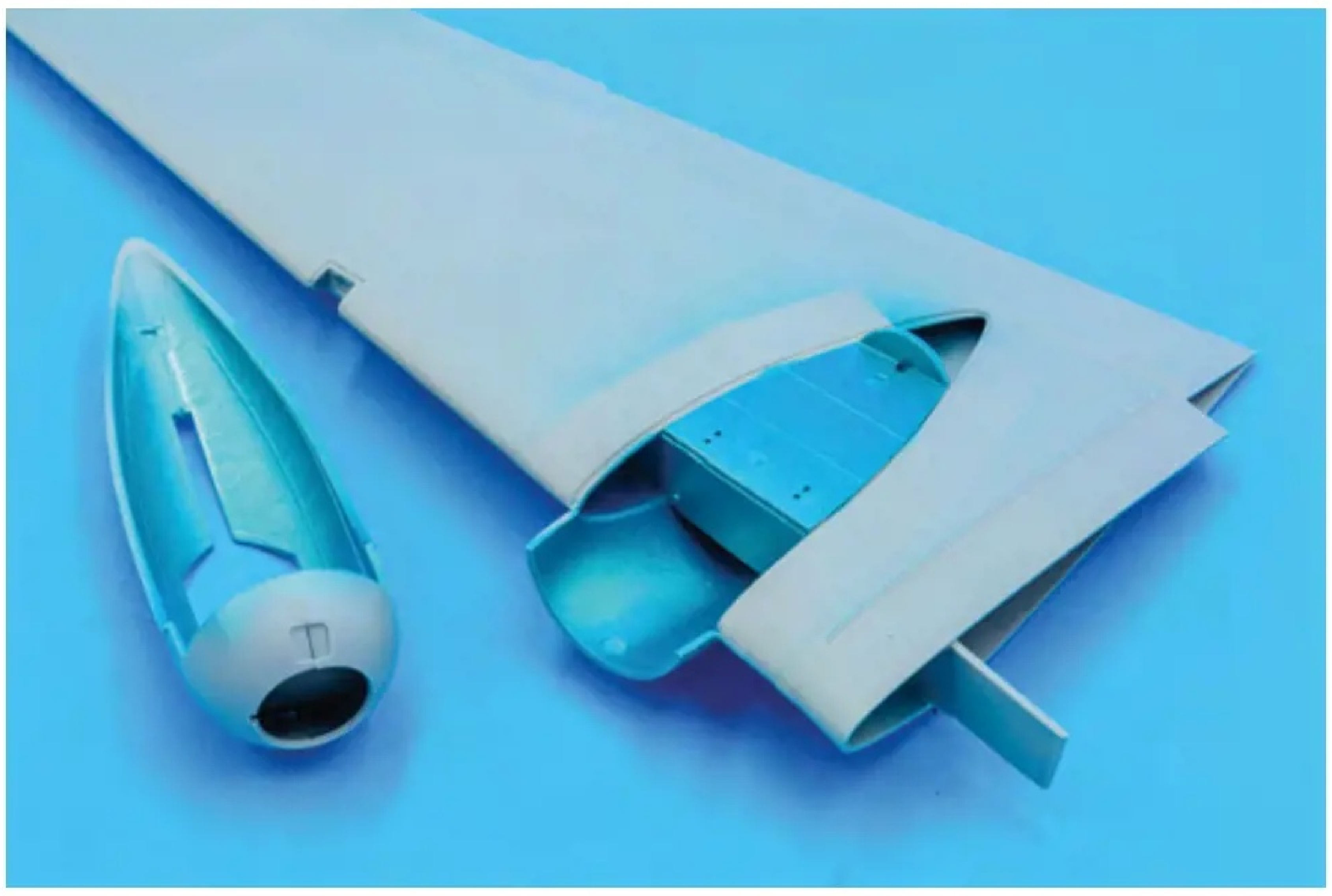
Improved radials

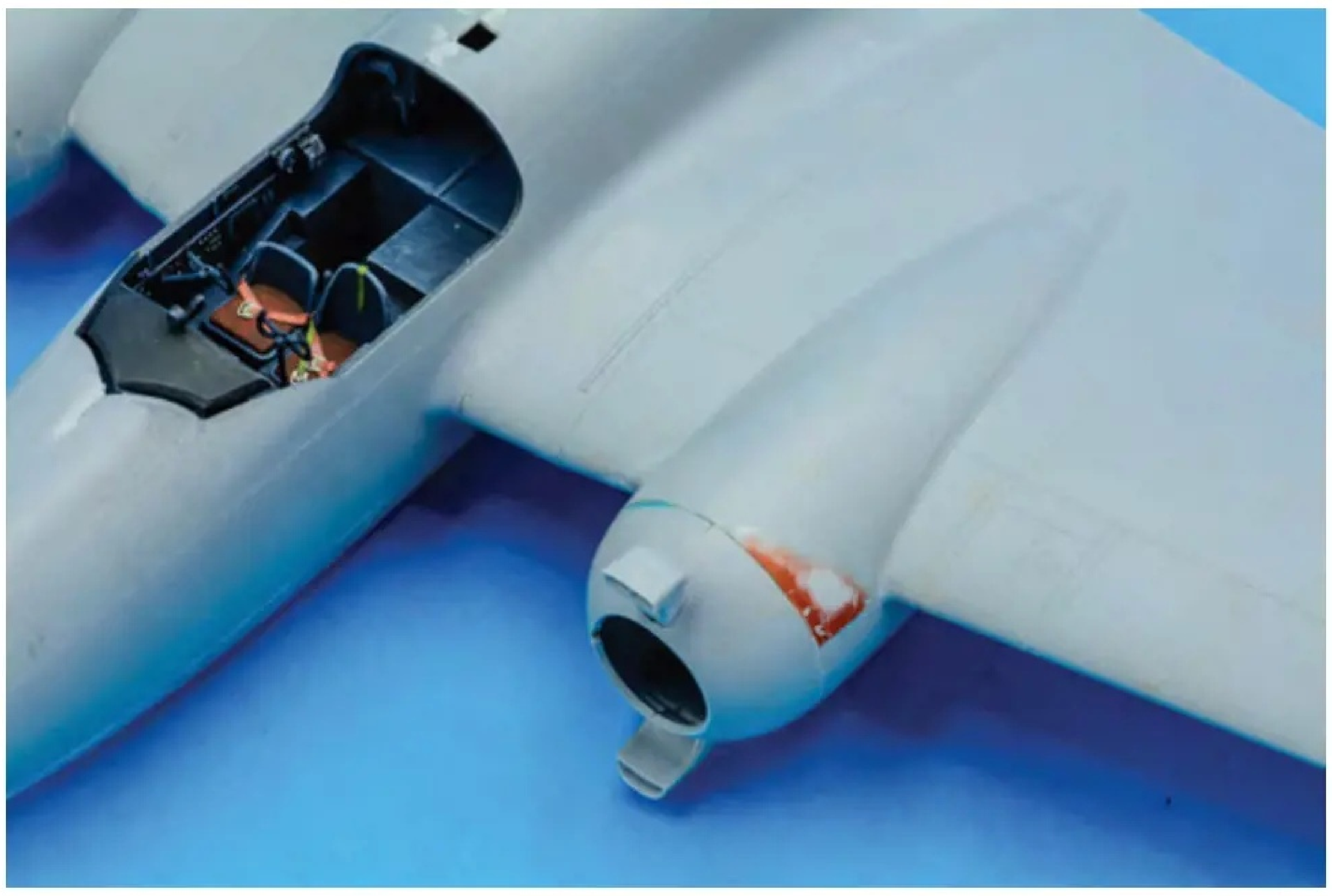
As is common with ICM's Ki-21 Sally kits, two well-detailed engines were provided and – having built these – I added further detail via ignition leads from fine copper wire. The engines were airbrushed in aluminium then given a heavy black wash. Each engine mounts to a backing plate, which carries the cooling gills at the rear of the cowling but on the rear face sits the exhaust collector ring. As the front of the engine nacelle curves into the rear of the engine mount, this area was visible behind the engine once mounted on the model... so it needs to be painted carefully. This required tricky masking to allow me to paint the collector ring, while ensuring everything else remained in the exterior colour of light grey-green.

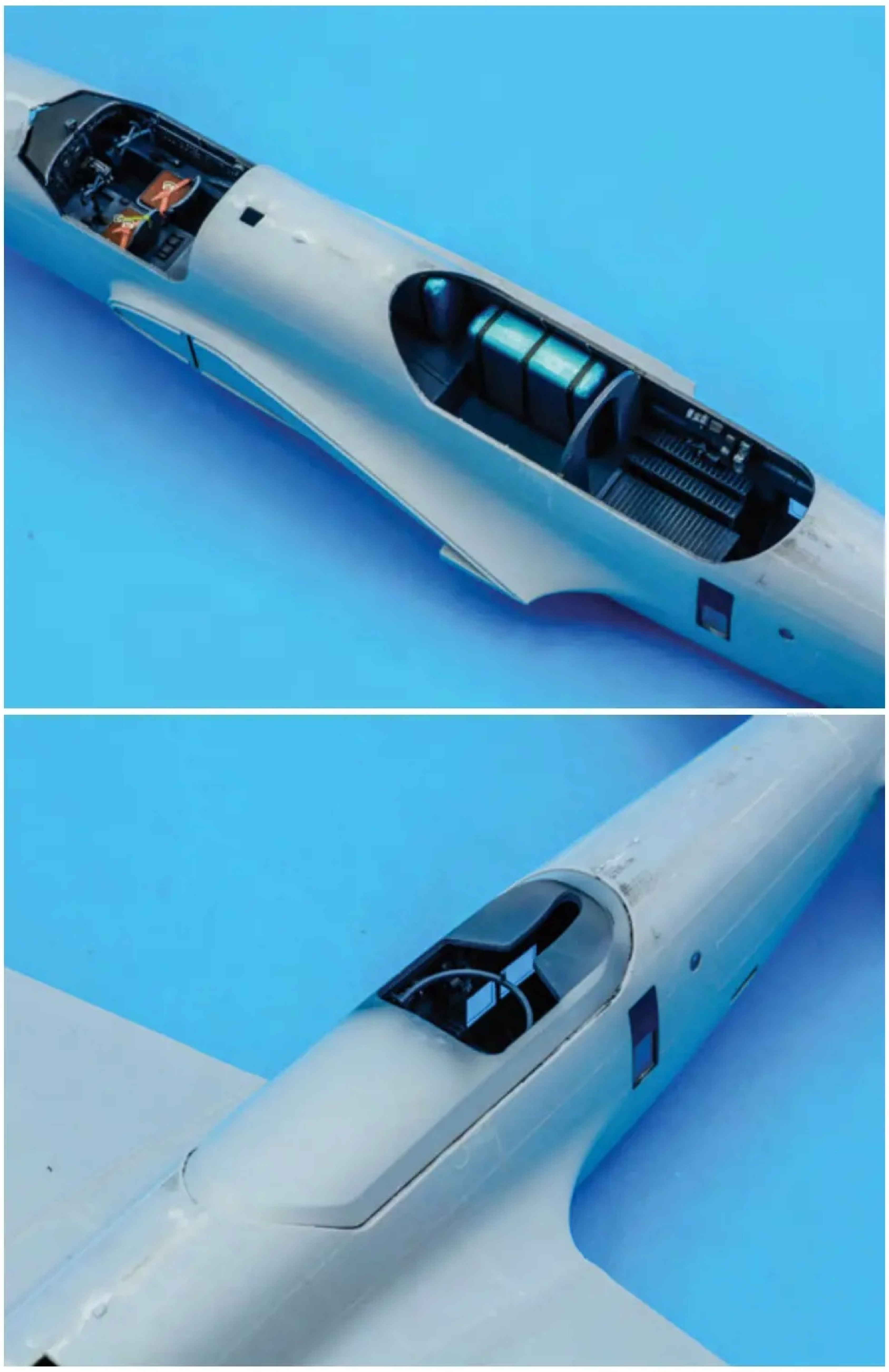
The airframe was almost complete with just about everything that needed to be done before I could start painting. The last job was to attach the large glazing atop the fuselage, cockpit canopy and nose transparency. These were attached with Mr. Cement SPB, which is a black-coloured version of the firm's standard adhesive. This is my preferred method of attaching canopies, as the black glue prevents the colour of the kit plastic being visible around the edges of the glazing. Plenty of masking was necessary on the canopies and ICM provides a template in the instructions, allowing you to make your own canopy masks. However, I felt this would probably take hours, so it was simply easier to buy an Eduard mask set (EX1004)... but even using this, it took two evenings to complete the masking.

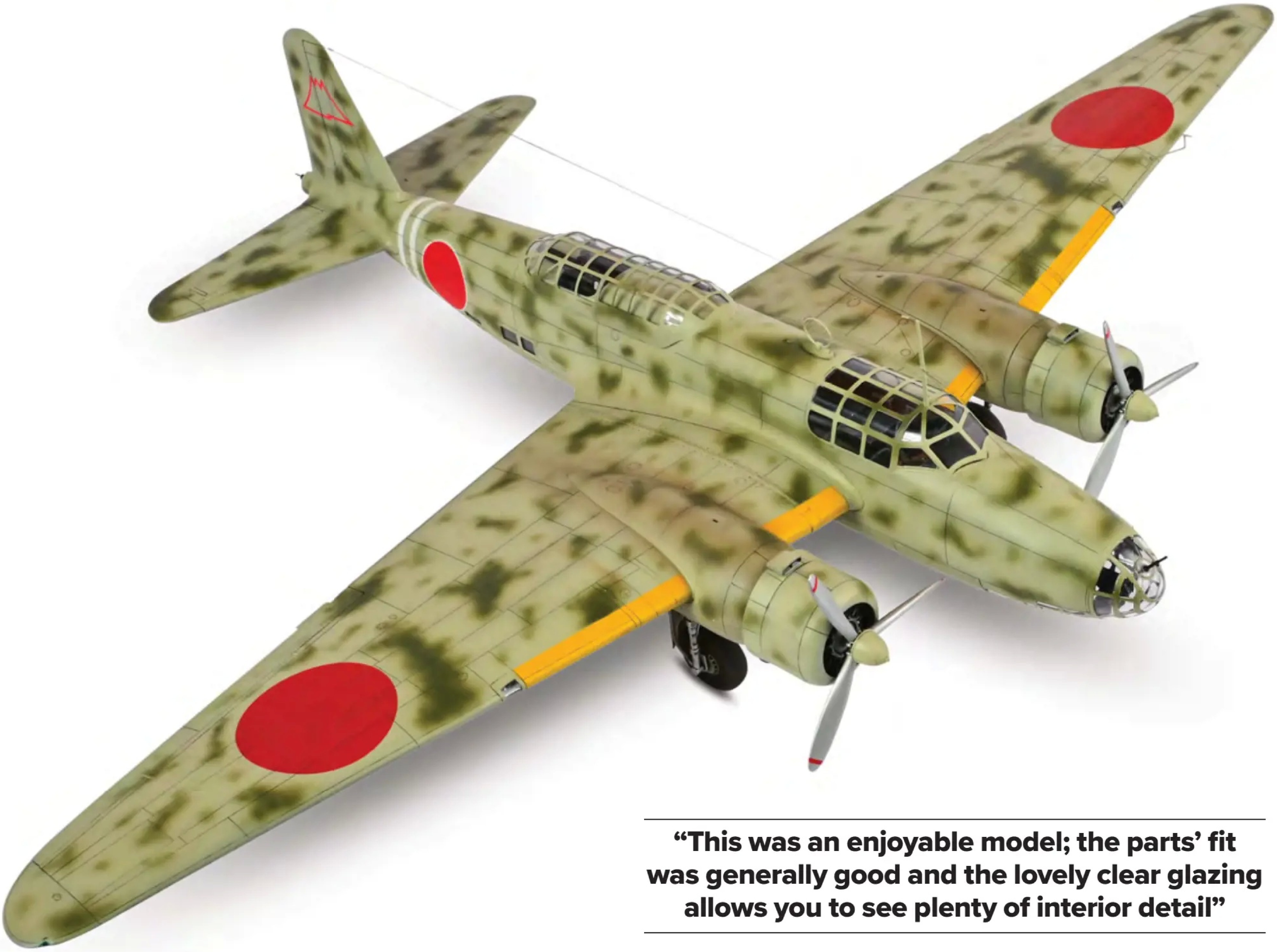
Camouflage colours

All Ki-21s were delivered to units in overall light grey-green and, once in service, often received field-applied camouflage over the


▲ The assembled wings and nacelles were painted with Aotake blue-green before attachment of the nacelles.

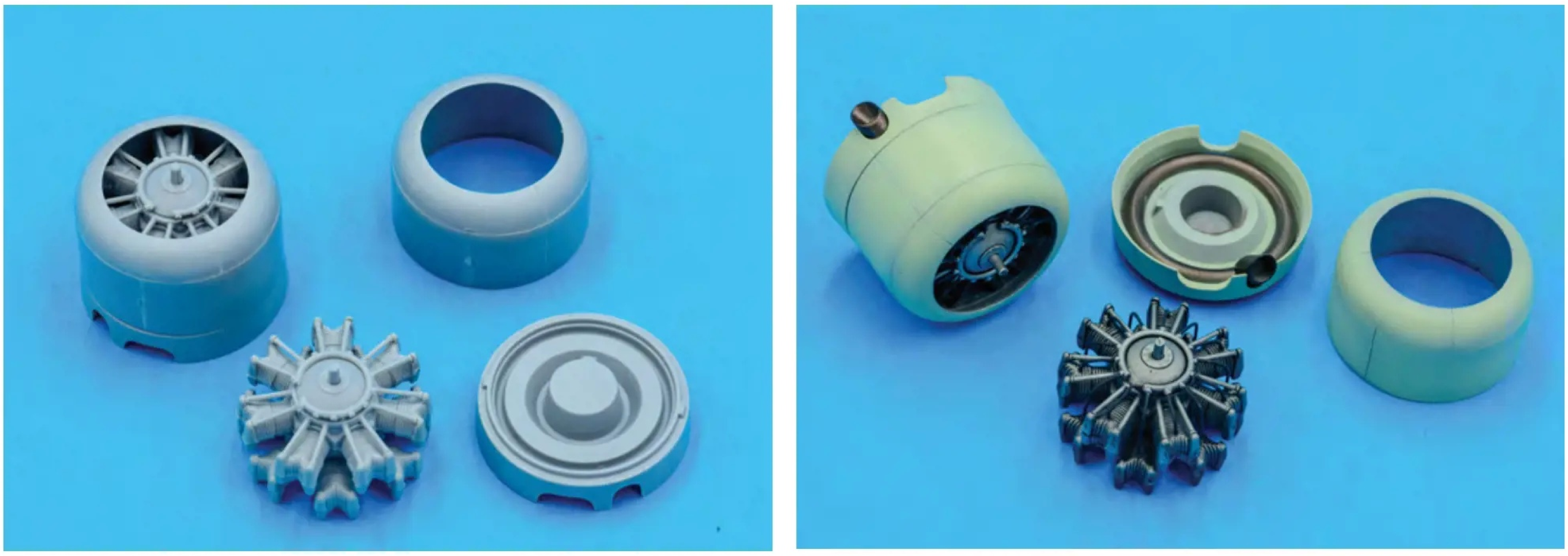

▲ The seams on the wings were neatened before the latter were attached to the fuselage. This made dealing with the seams around the nacelles easier. Here, the worst part of these seams can be seen, where considerable filling and sanding was required. This turned out to be an exception... the fit generally being notably good.


▲ Much of the interior visible through the centre section opening (top) would be hidden once the upper fuselage panel was positioned.

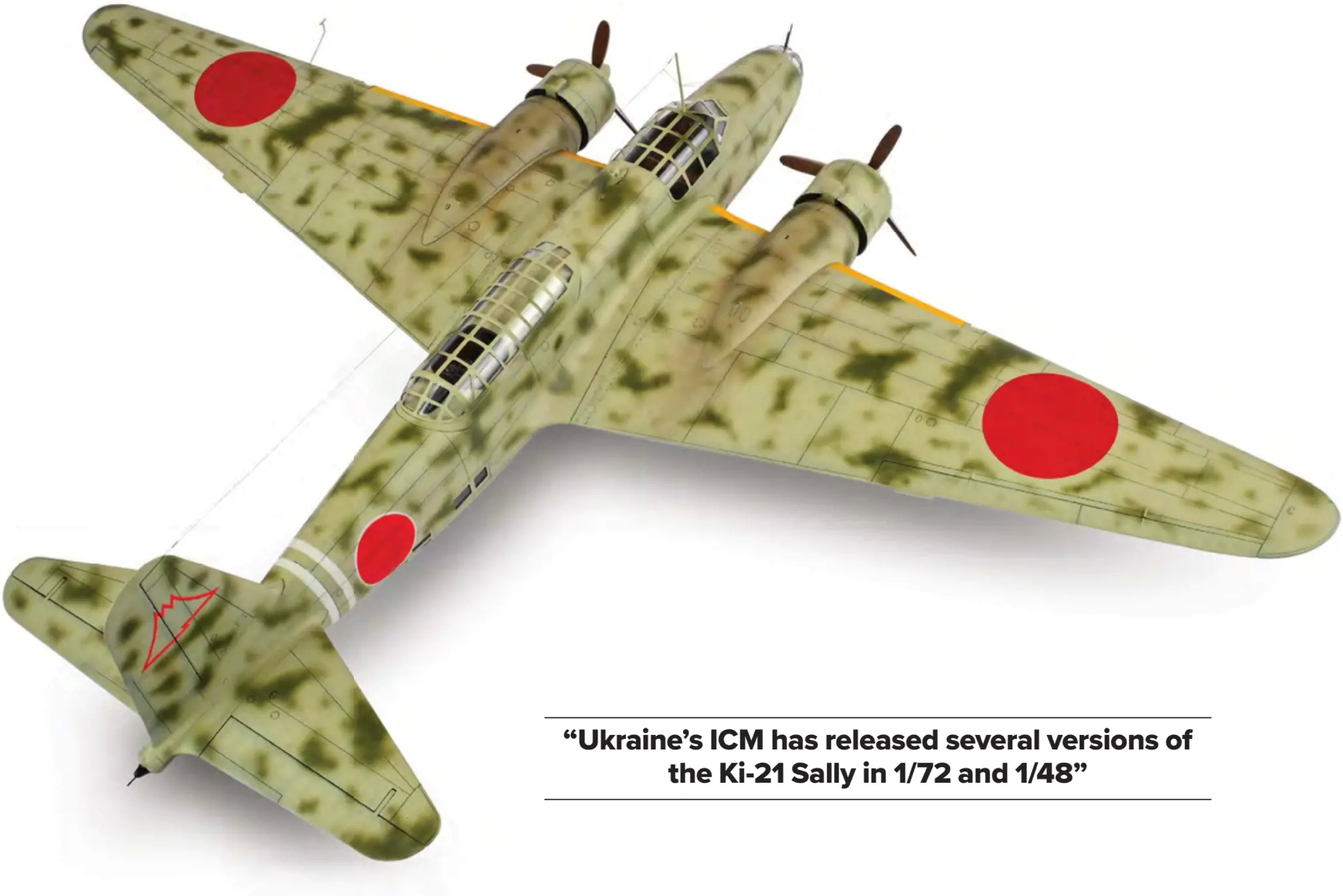


"This was an enjoyable model; the parts' fit was generally good and the lovely clear glazing allows you to see plenty of interior detail"

upper surfaces. This took many forms, from a complete overspray with dark green to finer mottles or even irregular lines. As each was unique, it helps to have photos of the actual airframe, although photos of this type are rare. Unfortunately, I was unable to find any for my chosen subject, and Xtradecal's guide just showed randomly applied mottle, which – frustratingly – didn't match from the side views to the top views, so would appear to be based on the little available information the designer could find. Thus, I was essentially on my own with the design and application of the pattern and my rendition is based on what I could determine *might* have been used by looking at available reference photos of other airframes. For the base colour I had several choices of IJAF light grey-green and I settled on Mr. Color C128 Gray Green… and H60 IJA Green for the green mottles.



▲ ICM's engines are well detailed and demand careful painting; I added ignition leads to add more interest. The rear of each cowling featured an exhaust collector ring, which also had to be paintedwith everything fitting neatly into the cowling.

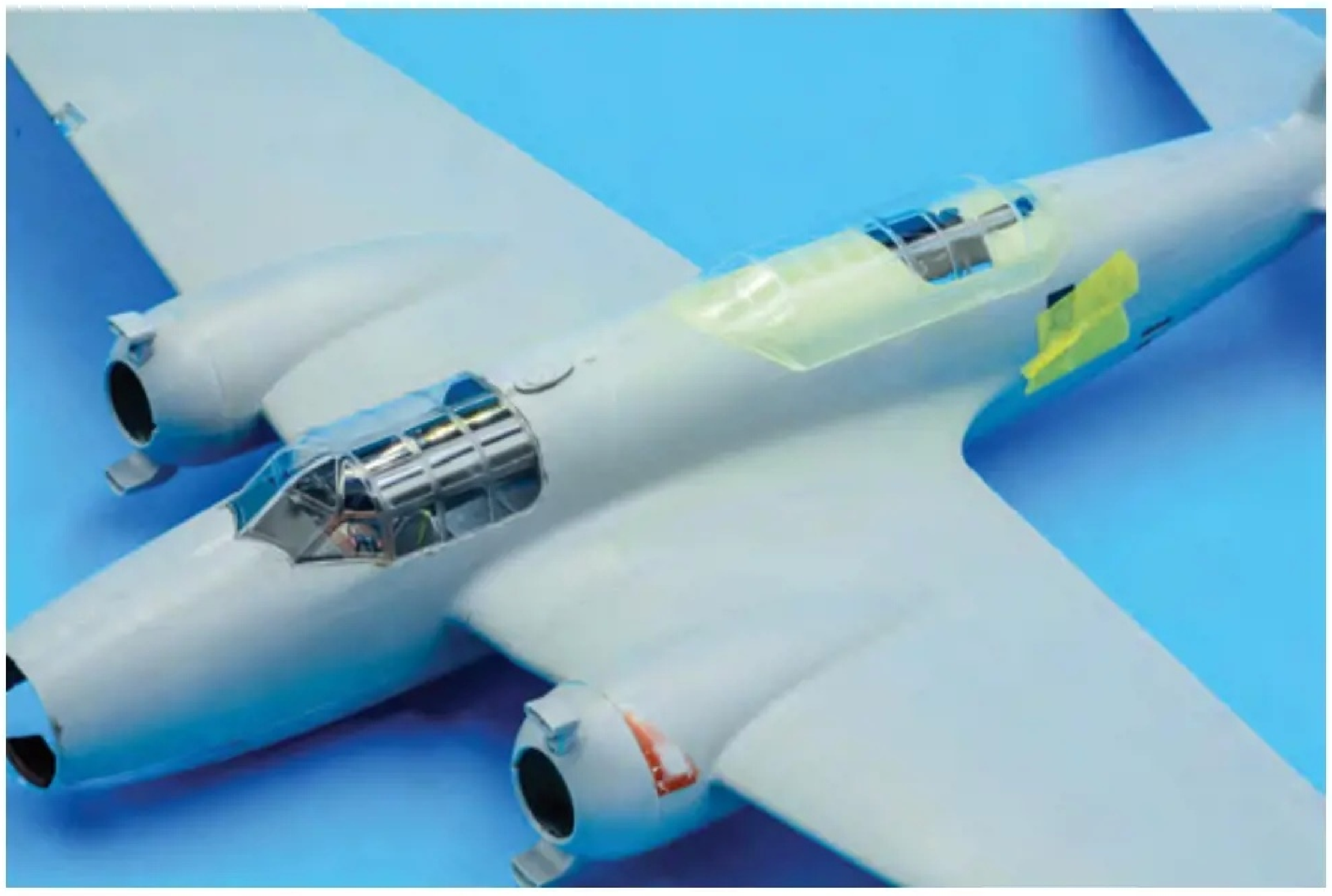


> **“Ukraine’s ICM has released several versions of the Ki-21 Sally in 1/72 and 1/48”**

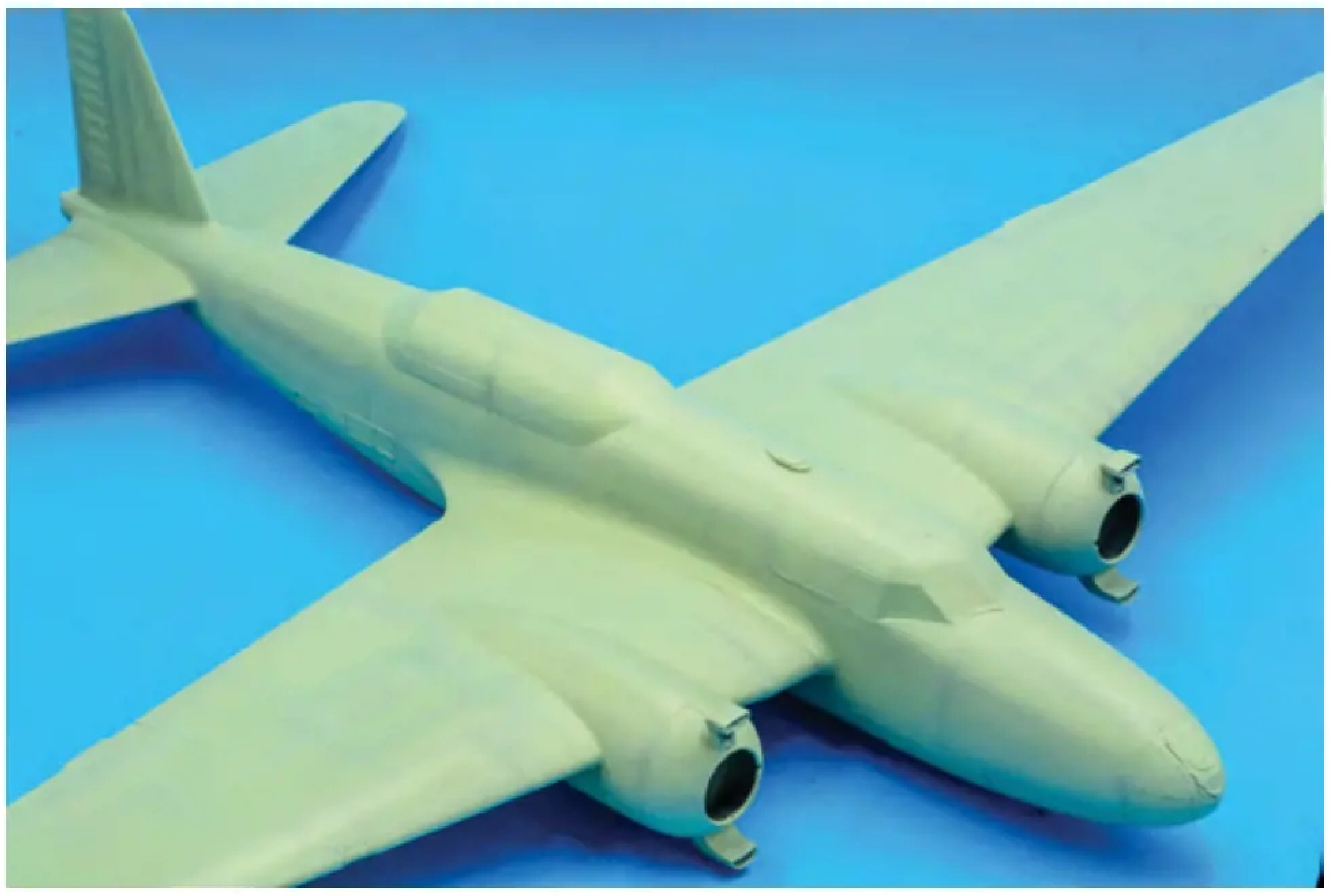
I had decided to airbrush the markings so I made my own masks using an Olfa circle cutter and a sheet of vinyl masking film. A simple circle would be used for both the upper and lower wings, but the fuselage sides required a white outline adding to the Hinomaru national insignia, which would take more work to spray. The white outline seems to have been introduced around mid-1942 and with this aircraft dating from that year, it’s difficult to know if it did or didn’t have the white boundary. Since it also had the yellow wing leading edges for identification (in a similar manner to those applied to RAF fighter aircraft later in the war) and these seem to appear on aircraft around the same time, I decided to employ the white border.

Let colour commence

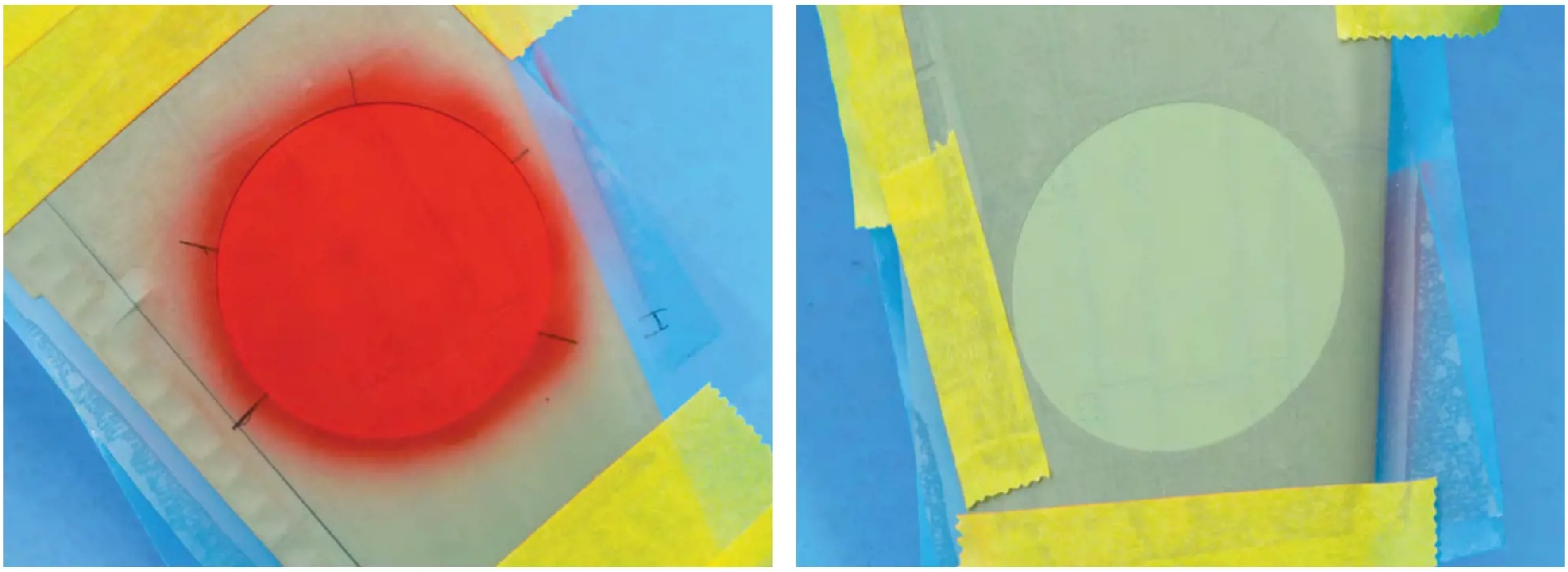
Before actual painting began, the model was cleaned to remove any grease and dust from the surface. It then received an overall coat of Mr. Hobby’s Mr. Surfacer 1000 via aerosol. Once dry this was given a light sanding with Micromesh to remove any imperfections. Next, I pre-shaded all the panel lines with black. The base colour of grey-green was applied over three evenings to cover the entire airframe. The paint was



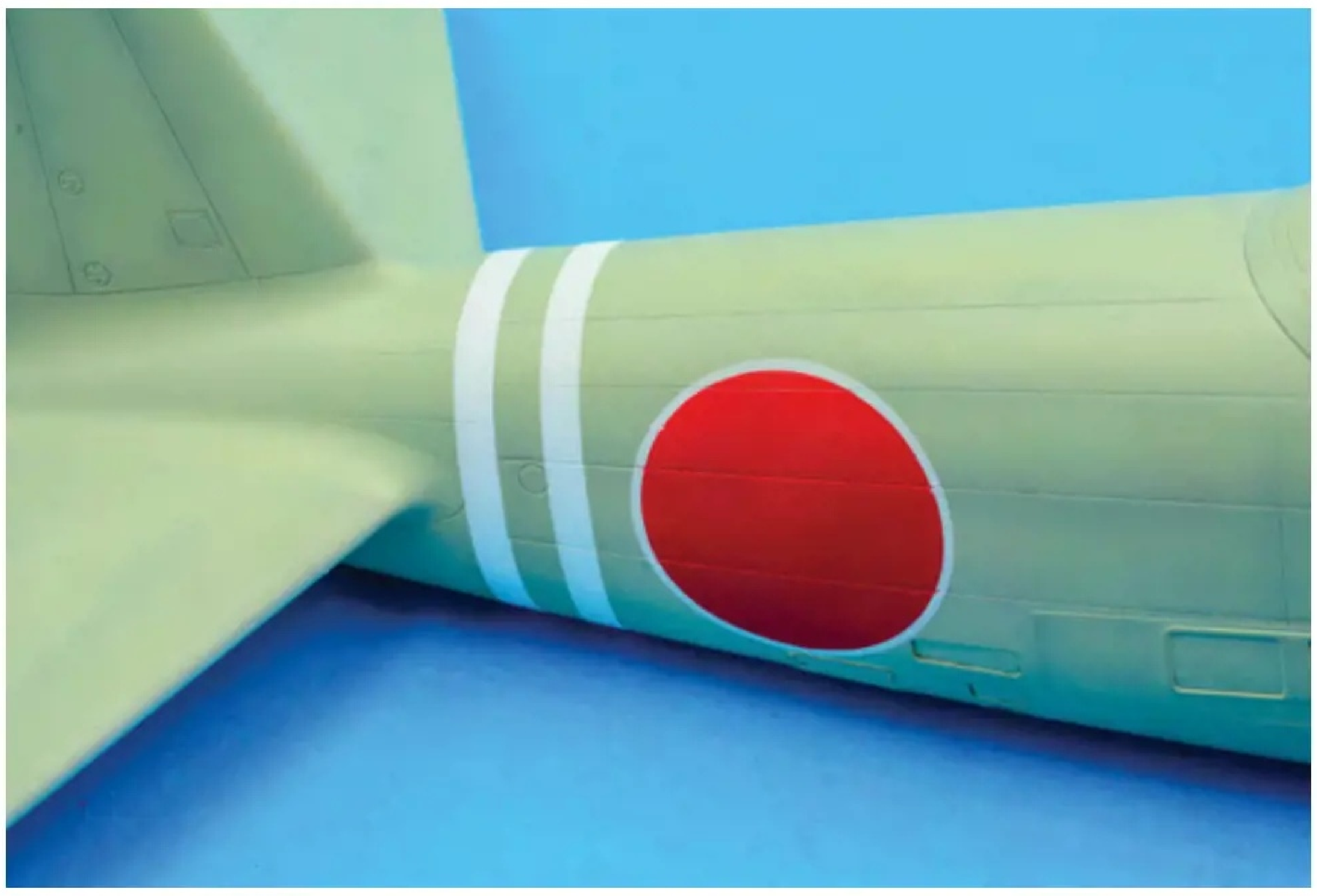
▲ The extensive glazing was added prior to painting and each section was neatened where it met the fuselage, to ensure clean and tidy joins.



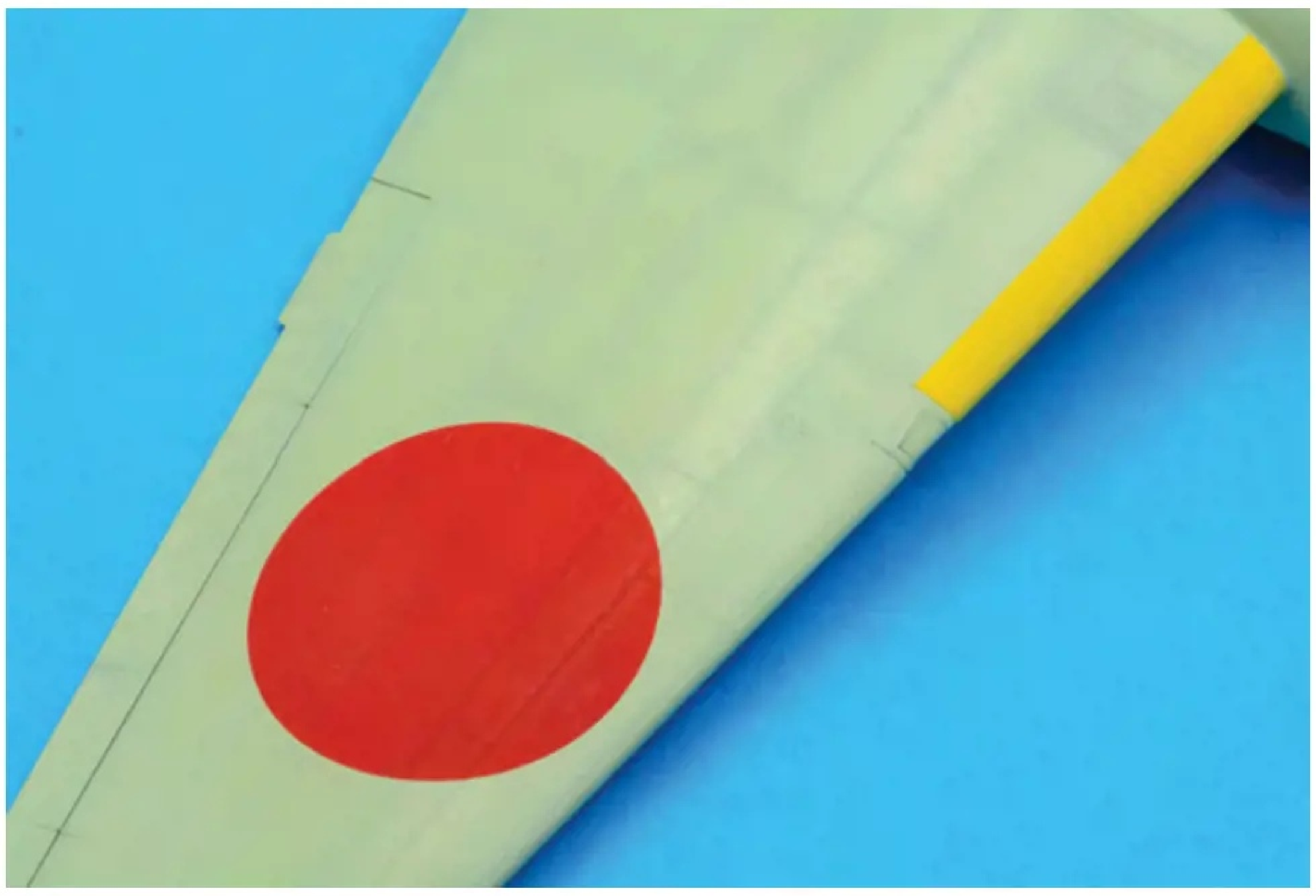
▲ After priming and pre-shading, the model received its overall grey-green tone, which was built gradually via thin layers.



▲ **Hinomaru insignia were airbrushed using homemade masks cut from vinyl film.**



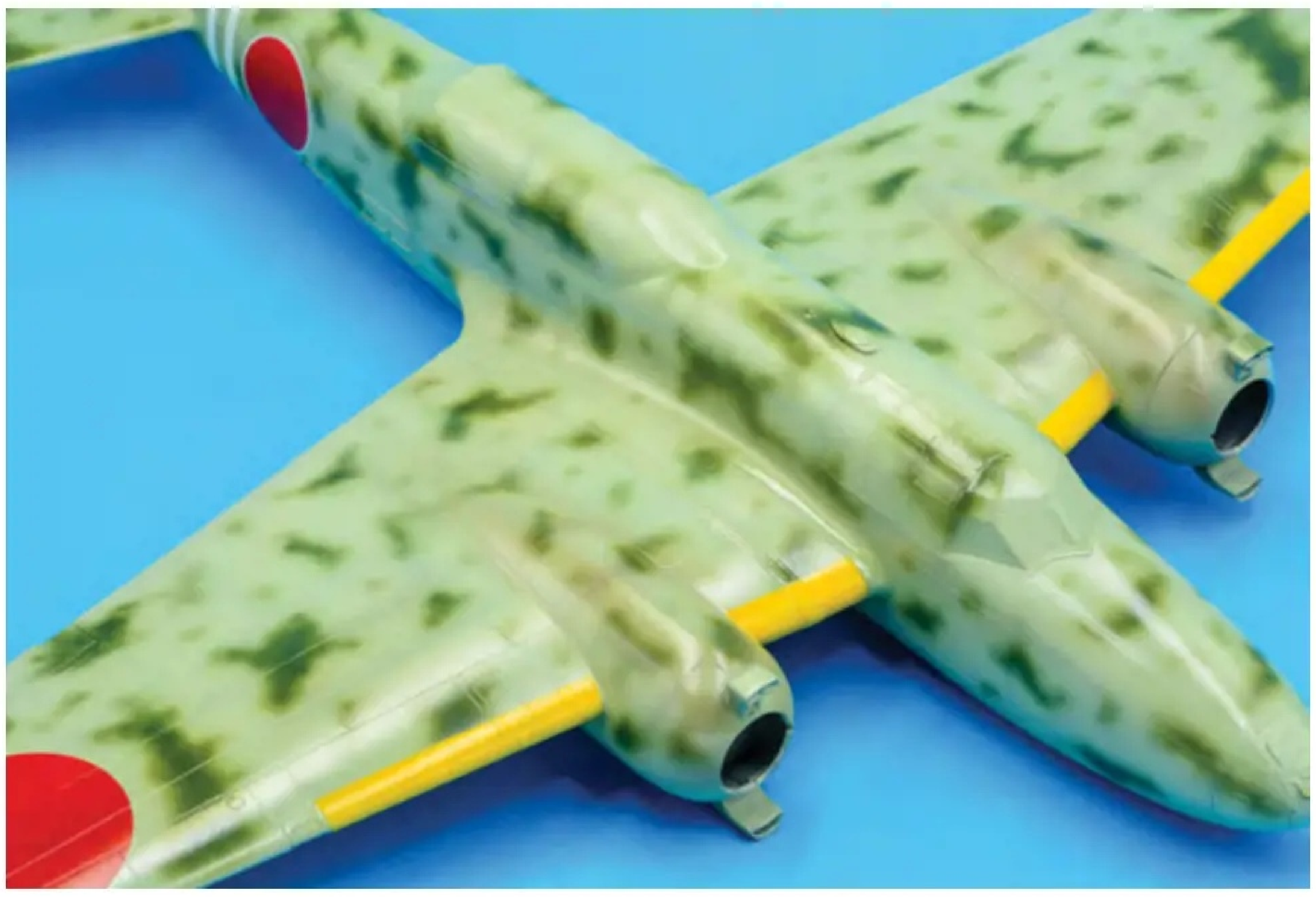
▲ **The model's sides required additional masking to create the Hinomarus' white border, plus the two white fuselage bands.**



▲ **Here we see the finished wing Hinomaru, along with the yellow leading-edge ID strips, which were also masked and airbrushed.**

distressed by applying varying shades of the base colour, sprayed through an Artool mask, concentrating more on the top surfaces than the sides and underneath. As the camouflage pattern was applied after the markings on the real aircraft, I needed to do the same with the model so I could paint around them. The homemade masks were applied to the wings and the red airbrushed; here, I used Tamiya XF-7 Matt Red mixed with a hint of X-7 Gloss Red, to make it more durable when handling the model.

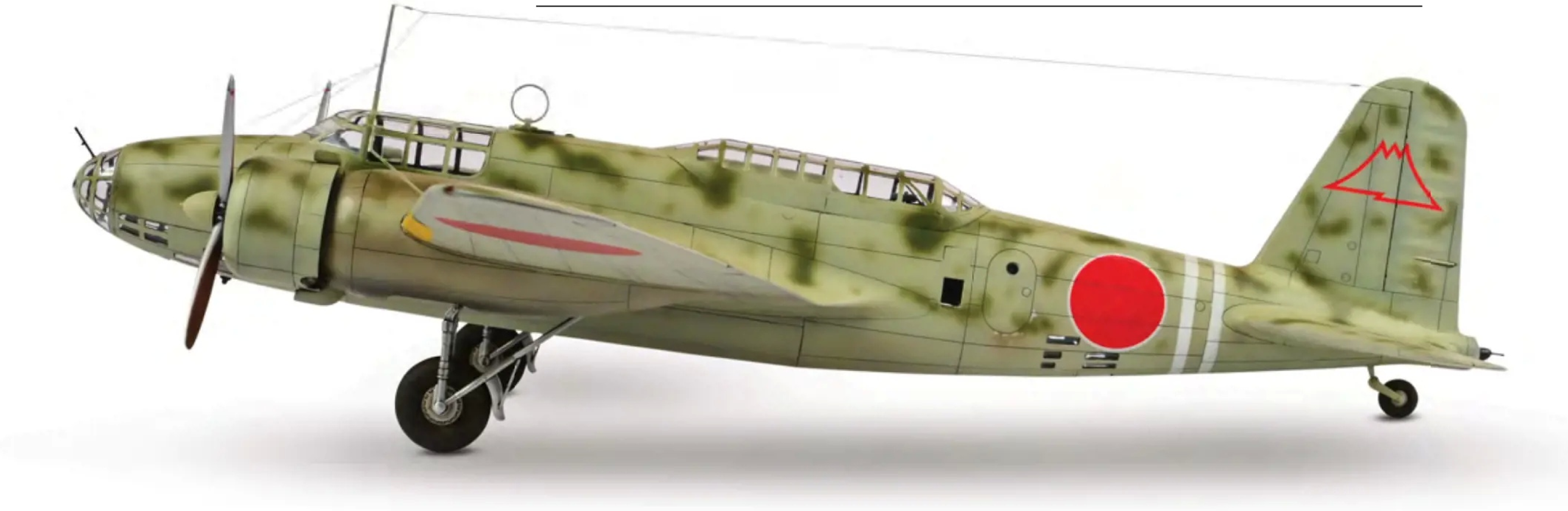
For the fuselage Hinomarus, I first applied a mask, which was of the diameter across the white border. The area for the border was then airbrushed white. Once dry, I fitted the border ring into the masked



▲ **The green mottle was airbrushed after the markings, as per on the real aircraft, where camouflage was field applied to newly delivered airframes.**

▲ **Once the model received its final varnish, assembly of the last parts could commence. Note that the completed nacelles have been attached here.**

> **"A sturdy stub spar is assembled into each wing and this provides a secure and accurate attachment point"**



area, plus the centre circle. The outer large mask was then removed, followed by the border, then a new outer mask was fitted over the remaining centre mask covering the white border. Removing the centre left a perfectly concentric mask covering the white border – and I was able to airbrush the central area red. The twin white stripes around the rear of the fuselage were then masked and airbrushed. Meanwhile, the yellow wing leading edges were masked and painted using MRP-419 IJAAF #14 KI IRO Marking Yellow. Finally, the fin and rudder got a coat of gloss varnish and the squadron insignia was applied using the Xtradecal items.

The camouflage green was sprayed over several sessions, carefully adding more each time until I was happy that I had coverage dense enough – but with a randomly applied appearance – via a mix of mottle sizes and shapes. Further work came with the Artool mask, this time spraying a thin dark brown mix on the upper surfaces. Exhaust stains were added, as well as more general oil staining streaked back from the front of the engine nacelles. Gloss varnish was then applied to allow the panel lines to accept Flory Models Dark Dirt Wash.

Detail painting

As the model neared completion, I needed to paint the undercarriage and props in preparation for these being fitted. This took several evenings' work as the parts needed to be painted and receive a pin wash to accentuate the detail, before the final varnish was applied. The airframe received VMS HDXXL Satin Varnish. With all painting completed, the masking was removed from the canopies and openings. Then, the completed engine nacelles were attached, followed by the undercarriage and propellers. There were a number of aerials to attach and at this point I discovered the strangely shaped pitot tube had disintegrated. So, I made a new example from carefully bent brass tube. The aerial leads appeared to be quite complex in photographs of the real aircraft, but the kit had no locating points for the leads in the fuselage, so these had to be estimated before drilling holes to take the leads (fashioned from Uschi van der Rosten elastic line). The final jobs were to paint the wingtip navigation lights with clear red and clear green, then add the nose and tail guns.

Pleasing Pacific subject

This was an enjoyable model; the parts' fit was generally good and the lovely clear glazing allows you to see plenty of interior detail. It was a rather large aircraft in reality - somewhat bigger than a Heinkel 111… which was rather a problem when I realised that I needed to clear a space in my display shelves for it!

MATERIALS AT A GLANCE

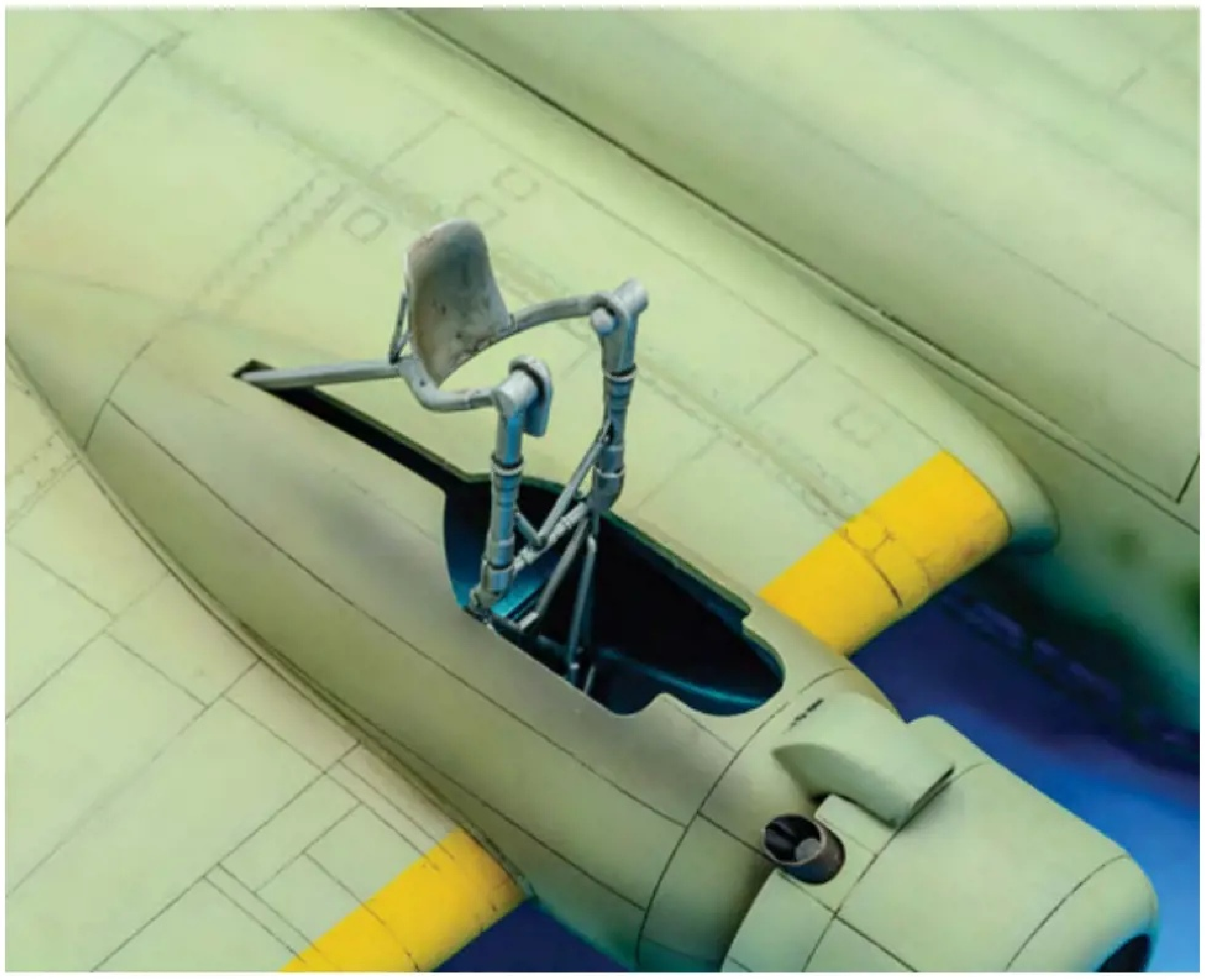
Mr. Paint (www.mrpaint.sk)
MRP-417 Hai Ran Shoku - Cockpit Blue Grey
MRP-419 IJAAF #14 KI IRO Marking Yellow

Mr. Color/Hobby (www.albionhobbies.com)
C128 Gray Green
H60 IJA Green
H63 Metallic Blue-Green Aotaki
Mr. Cement SPB
Mr. Surfacer 1000

Eduard (www.eduard.com)
FE1415 Ki-21-I Seatbelts STEEL
EX1004 Ki-21-I

Tamiya (www.hobbyco.net)
XF-7 Matt Red
X-7 Gloss Red

VMS (www.albionhobbies.com)
HDXXL Satin Varnish



▲ **ICM suggested adding the undercarriage at an early stage of the build. However, the parts fit determined it could be added on completion, thus avoiding breakage.**

KEY Publishing

THE DESTINATION FOR MILITARY ENTHUSIASTS

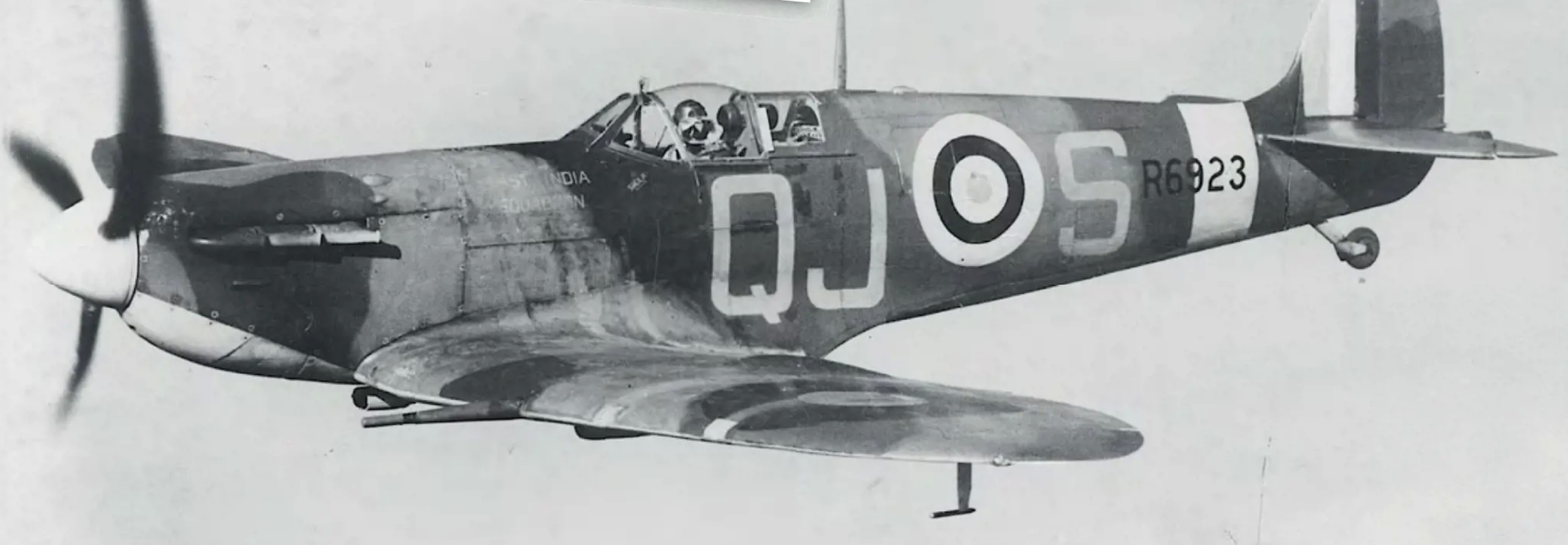
Visit us today and discover all our latest releases

SPITFIRE ACES
TONY HOLMES
RICHARD 'DIXIE' ALEXANDER
DOUGLAS BADER

ONLY £35.00

The Supermarine Spitfire has achieved iconic status due to its exceptional design and the enduring bravery of its pilots during the conflicts of World War Two. Revered by pilots, this high-performance fighter aircraft is best remembered for operations with RAF Fighter Command in the defence of Britain in 1940, although the Spitfire went on to serve in every theatre of war.

Using the Spitfire's speed, manoeuvrability and impressive firepower, Allied pilots enjoyed great success in aerial combat against all the leading Axis fighter types from 1940 through to VJ Day. No fewer than ten marks of Spitfire saw action as fighters during World War Two, and more than 460 RAF, Commonwealth and USAAF pilots claimed five or more enemy aircraft shot down to achieve ace status.



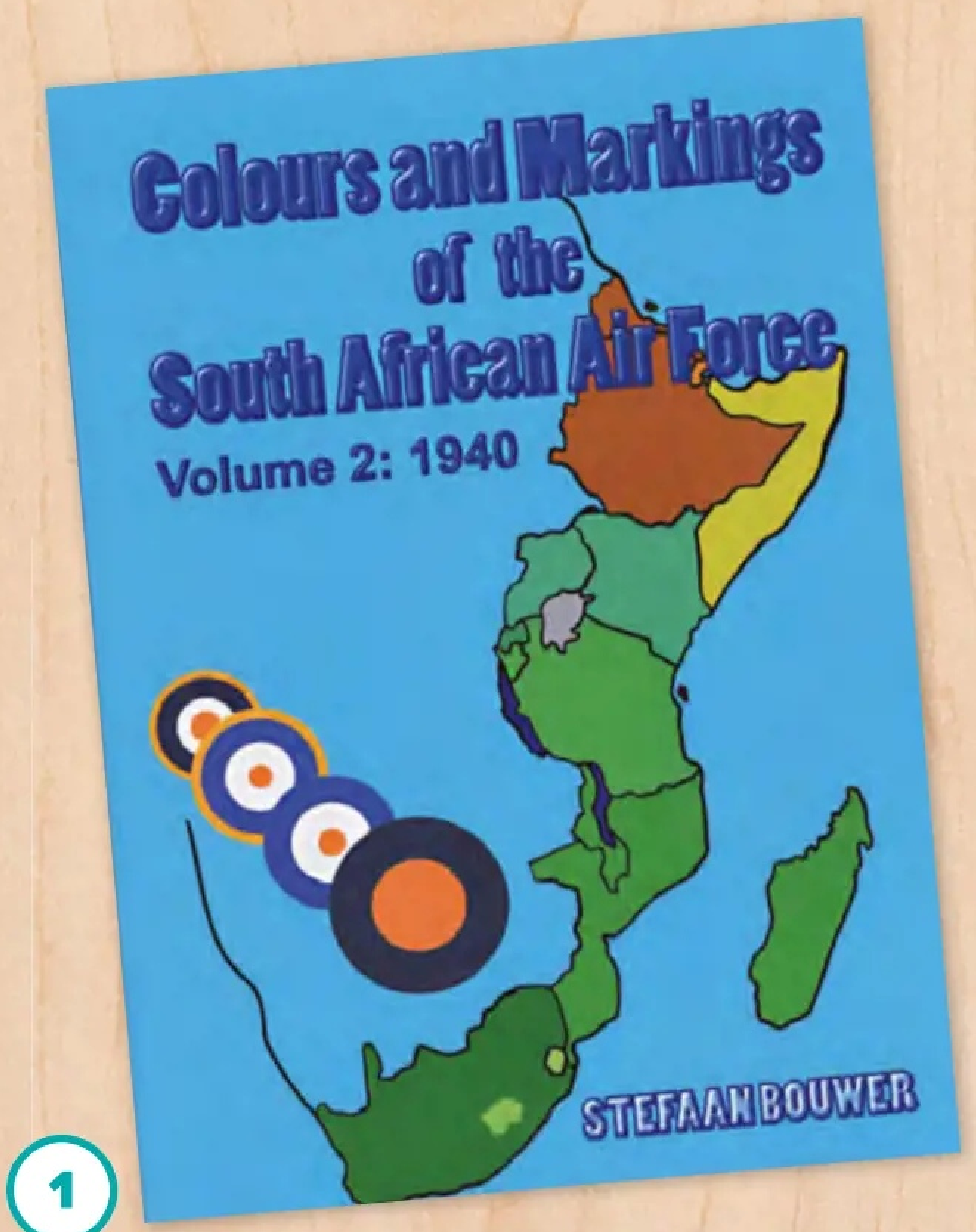
FREE P&P* when you order from our online shop...

shop.keypublishing.com/spitfireaces

Call +44 (0)1780 480404 *(Monday to Friday 9am - 5.30pm GMT)*

**Free 2nd class P&P on all UK & BFPO orders. Overseas charges apply.*

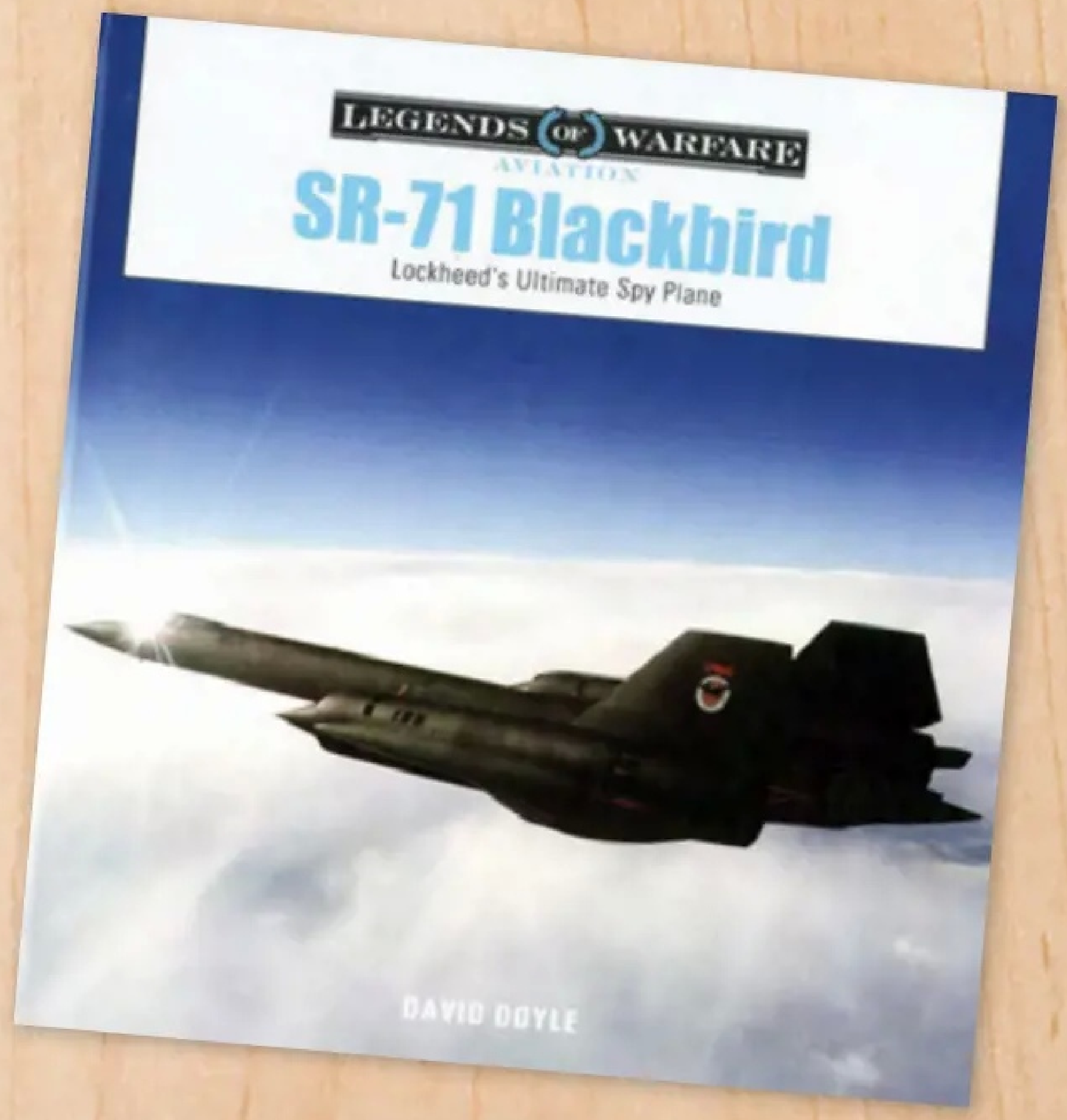
888/25



①

J-20 MIGHTY DRAGON
ASIA'S FIRST STEALTH FIGHTER IN THE ERA OF CHINA'S MILITARY RISE
ABRAHAM ABRAMS
TECHNOLOGY @ WAR SERIES

②



③

①

Colours and Markings of the South African Air Force Vol 2 – 1940

By: Stefaan Bouwer
ISBN: 978-1-0370-6117-2 **Price:** SA Rand 580
Pages: 73 **Format:** A4
Web: aviationshop.co.za

The author examines the development of camouflage in the South African Air Force (SAAF) as it moved to live operations against the Italians in East Africa. Illustrated with images of various aircraft that equipped the SAAF – from the Fairey Battle and Vickers Valentia to the Junkers Ju 86 – the author includes forensic detail on the authorisation of colour schemes and the markings worn. Much of this material reflected the policy and regulation of the RAF and so will attract wider interest. A highlight is the reproduction of policy documentation, colour chips and contemporary sketches for camouflage patterns, providing root material so essential to modellers. The descriptions of a Battle with black and white 'fighter' scheme undersides or a camouflaged Gauntlet in East Africa are arguably worth the cover price alone. Similarly, those with a penchant for early Hurricanes will find much of use here. The colours on aircraft of the burgeoning training establishment in South Africa are also covered, and many will find the descriptions and colour chips helpful, including the use of Canary Yellow and not MAP Trainer Yellow. The final pages discuss the question of SAAF underside blue. Although much space is devoted to document scans, there are many useful references for modellers who might wish to complete a South African Ju 52/3m or Hawker Audax trainer. This is a monumental piece of in-depth and original research, which will please and delight those keen on achieving accurate camouflage and markings. **Andy Thomas**

②

J-20 Mighty Dragon

By: Abraham Abrams
ISBN: 978-1-80415-60-0 **Price:** £19.95
Pages: 82 **Format:** A4
Web: helion.co.uk

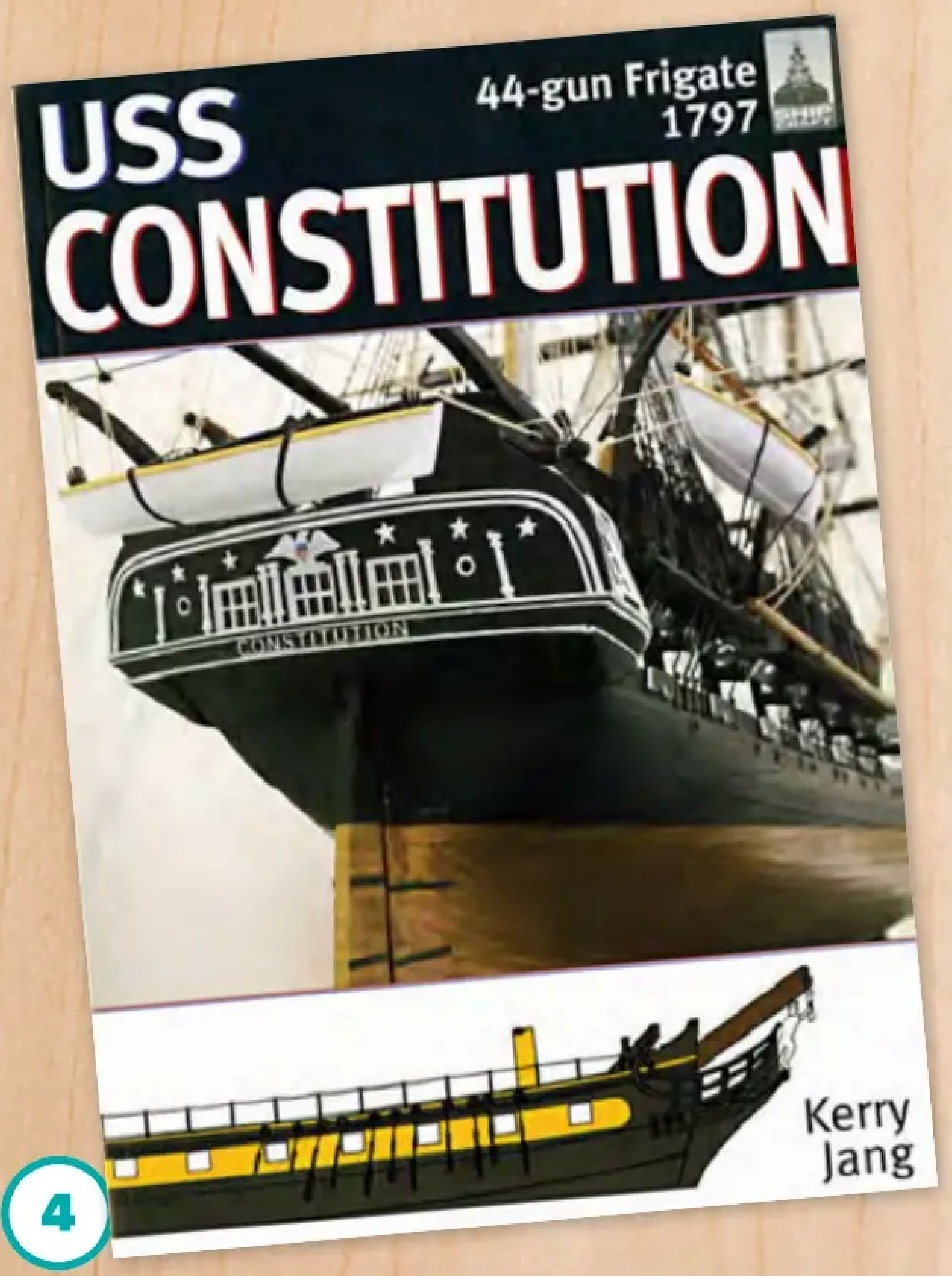
China's massive military modernisation is exemplified by the rapid transition from licence-building Su-27 *Flankers* to developing its own versions… and designing operational stealth fighters such as the J-20 Mighty Dragon. The initial chapter sets the scene for the J-20's development, highlighting its role in providing national air defence – a requirement that has evolved greatly since the Korean War. It ends with China's utilisation of the Su-27 *Flanker* (in both Russian and Chinese formats), which forms a neat segue into the genesis and development of the J-20 – China's first operational stealth fighter. Its role within Chinese military doctrine is examined, too (along with Western misconceptions), highlighting its capabilities as a long-range interceptor akin to the USAF's F-22 Raptor. Maps illustrate the locations of operating units, while the author is to be commended for the collection of reference photos (especially given China's secrecy). Most aspects of the aircraft are covered, and the comparison of elements with earlier designs (notably the J-10 fighter and J-11) show how they were developed/refined for the J-20. Arguably, the most fascinating chapter discusses not just the current in-service variants (there are believed to be up to five), but also the potential for future enhancements, including newer air-to-air and air-to -ground munitions. The final chapters also examine how the type is supported, and what its future may be given recent 'sixth-generation' designs emerging in China. Regardless of scale or manufacturer, if you have a kit of the J-20 Mighty Dragon, this is the ideal introduction. **SF**

③

SR-71 Blackbird: Lockheed's Ultimate Spy Plane

By: David Doyle
ISBN: 978-0-7643-6708-3 **Price:** £17.24
Pages: 144 **Format:** 237 x 237mm
Web: gazellebookservices.co.uk

If you're looking for an entry-level reference on Lockheed's groundbreaking Blackbird, Schiffer Publishing's hardback is a good bet. Few aircraft have the sheer presence and jaw-dropping appearance of Lockheed's SR-71 Blackbird and its brethren. Whichever member of this fascinating family you choose to replicate, a reasonably priced reference lies in Schiffer Publishing's *Legends of Warfare Aviation* SR-71 hardback. With five chapters, this mainly photographic study provides coverage of the first iteration, the Central Intelligence Agency's A-12 'Oxcart' and the ultimately unsuccessful 'Mother-Daughter' combination of the M-21 airframe and D-21 reconnaissance drone. Attention then turns to the YF-12 interceptor prototypes armed with AIM-47A air-to-air missiles, before exploring the 'main attraction' in the SR-71A proper. The coverage closes with focus on NASA experimental flights with the YF-12 and SR-71A. While most of the photos show whole airframes, there are close-ups of different airframe sections, the undercarriage, cockpits, open canopies and the like. Each chapter starts with a two-page narrative on the sub-type in question, and is followed by pages of relevant imagery. The content isn't entirely photo-based, though. Also provided are comparative drawings of A-12 and YF-12 noses, plus data tables for specifications and record flights. All images are accompanied by captions, highlighting pertinent details. This book is useful for both the novice and more experienced modeller, THat said, there is plenty to please anyone fresh to the subject, though. **CC**



4

SPITFIRE
ACES
TONY HOLMES

5

MIDDLE EAST@WAR No.03
FULL COLOUR
IRAN-IRAQ NAVAL WAR
VOLUME 2: CONVOY BATTLES,
1981–1984
Tom Cooper, Sirous Ebrahimi
& E. R. Hooton
MIDDLE EAST@WAR
SERIES

6

4

USS *Constitution* 44-gun Frigate 1797

By: Kerry Jang
ISBN: 978-1-0361-1863-1 **Price:** £16.99
Pages: 64 **Format:** A4
Web: www.pen-and-sword.co.uk

This recent Shipcraft volume focuses on arguably one of the most famous US naval vessels – USS *Constitution*, also known as 'Old Ironsides' – which was one of the US Navy's first six frigates and is the world's oldest commissioned naval warship still afloat. The ship's design, construction and operational service bookends a modelling section, as is usual of this series, and the author has done well to compress more than 200 years of history into less than 60 pages. Understandably, there are few images of the ship's first century or so, but there's clever use of original plans and period artwork to help illustrate the story, while photos of museum models highlight the ship's form during that period. Unfortunately, the drawings are too small to be of real use, which is a shame, as they are packed with information. *Constitution*'s role as a museum ship is then covered, including how it is maintained to this day. The modelling section addresses both styrene and wooden kits, with scales ranging from 1:1200 through to 1:76 – 'museum-scale' or 1/96 –feature heavily, most notably Revell's 1/96 kit (last released in 2017) and associated aftermarket accessories/upgrades. Arguably some of the most interesting material describes the changes to the ship's appearance, which will aid modellers in creating an accurate depiction of 'Old Ironsides' at any period in its history – three side-view profiles portray major alterations to the hull and fittings. If you're looking to build a model of USS *Constitution*, this will be an ideal starting point. **SF**

5

Spitfire Aces

By: Tony Holmes
ISBN: 978-1-80282-483-4 **Price:** £35
Pages: 223 **Format:** A4 Landscape
Web: https://shop.keypublishing..com

This well-illustrated and superbly written volume describes the exploits of 40 Spitfire pilots from nine nations that achieved 'ace' status during World War Two. While many are household names among the aviation community, such as 'Johnnie' Johnson, Neville Duke, 'Paddy' Finucane and Pierre Clostermann, space is given to lesser-known aviators, including Bill Rolls (18 victories) and Don Laubman (16 victories). The pilots are listed alphabetically, with each receiving similar treatment: a brief biograaphy explains how and when they entered their respective air arms, followed by an outline of their service career. While the Battle of Britain is an obvious focus, operations over North Africa, Western Europe and South East Asia also receive attention. Accounts of air-to-air victories are described in vivid detail, combining operational reports and personal anecdotes, and these are joined by other significant events, including crashes and being shot down. The narratives are supplemented by photos of the pilots, their squadron personnel (both aircrew and groundcrew) and aircraft flown. There is also a full-colour profile depicting an aircraft in which the pilot scored at least one victory, complete with an informative caption. From a modelling perspective, there's much to savour: colour profiles provide invaluable colour information, while the excellent selection of period photos offers close-ups on particular airframes, equipment such as gunsights, maintenance scenes and noseart. If you're looking to build a Spitfire flown by an ace, this is an excellent starting point and, at just £35, it's great value for money. **SF**

6

Iran-Iraq Naval War Volume 2: Convoy Battles 1981-1984

By: Tom Cooper, Sirous Ebrahimi and ER Hooton
ISBN: 978-1-915070-80-7 **Price:** £19.95
Pages: 80 **Format:** A4
Web: www.helion.co.uk

While the land and air battles during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq War have received much attention, the naval element seems to have been overlooked. The authors have set to correct this with a series focused on these events. The first volume set the scene and described the events of 1980, while this second book tackles the next four years. Much of the source material has come from Iranian archives, so the narrative at times appears slightly one-sided, but it does provide an intriguing insight. The Iranian 'caravan' or convoy concept, used between Bandar Abbas and Bandar E Khomeini, forms the backbone of the narrative. It's fascinating how the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force and Army provided top cover and escorts for these convoys, leading to significant clashes with the Iraqis. The conflict was also notable for a series of 'firsts', including operational use of the AGM-54 Harpoon anti-shipping missile and AIM-54 Phoenix air-to-air missile, plus the combat debut of AM-38 Exocet from Iraqi Super Frelon helicopters. Tactics and countermeasures are discussed, while the period photos provide plenty of modelling inspiration. In common with other Helion products, the middle seven pages are devoted to full colour profiles, in this case the aircraft and ships of both sides, including Iranian F-14, C-130s and corvettes, plus Iraqi MiG-23 *Floggers*, Mirage F.1s and fast-attack craft. The final volume will address the final three years of the conflict, a period which became known as the 'Tanker War'. Regardless of whether you have a modelling or historical interest in these events, this is a worthwhile reference. **SF**

PLANET models
GAL 48B Twin Hotspur Mk.I
'British WWII Experimental Glider'
No. 213
1:48
Made in Czech Republic

1

2

70079
Nakajima Ki-43 II Hayabusa
Foreign Service
1/72
Arma Hobby

UH-60A Black Hawk
US Military Transport Helicopter
1:48
48361
ICM

3

1

GAL 48B Twin Hotspur Mk.I

By: Planet Models **Scale:** 1/48
Item no: 213 **Price**: €84.70
Web: www.specialhobby.eu

If you're looking for an unusual subject, then Planet Models' recent GAL 48B Twin Hotspur is well worth considering. Developed from the original single-airframe Hotspur glider, the Twin Hotspur added a second fuselage, with a short mid-section wing and a twin-tail, plus an inter-linking horizontal stabiliser/elevator combo. This resin kit mirrors the real prototype's development, as a second fuselage plus linking wing and stabilisers is added. All parts except the vac-form canopies and 3D-printed undercarriage legs are rendered in conventionally cast resin and, once the casting flash has been removed, the external detail is pleasing, with engraved panel lines. Internally, just the paired cockpits feature any detail, and most of the smaller parts are intended for the two 'offices'. Here there are integrally cast sidewall frames, onto which flying controls and instruments are added, and the canopy sill comes as a separate part (note, this will need the pilots' openings cleared of flash before it can be attached), which also serves as a support for the front pilot's instrument panel plus repeater dials for the rear seat. The cockpit floor is rendered as a single, accurately curved component, and includes integral rudder pedals plus seat mounts; the seats themselves are hollow box-like structures. Spare vac-form canopies are included, while what passes for passenger windows are supplied as clear resin items. Markings are supplied on two decal sheets, with one providing just the fin flashes; all other items are on the larger sheet, including prototype insignia and serial for the sole airframe, MP486G.

2

Nakajima Ki-43 II Hayabusa 'Foreign Service'

By: Arma Hobby **Scale:** 1/72
Item no: 70079 **Price:** €21.36
Web: www.armahobby.com

Arma Hobby's gorgeous Ki-43 Hayabusa has been reissued with new markings to depict a mix of foreign operators and a captured airframe. Parts are unchanged, being presented on three styrene runners (including a single clear frame), and there's a canopy/wheel mask set included too. This means there's a sumptuous cockpit interior – the seat has open lightening holes (impressive in this scale) – with separate throttle and flap/undercarriage levers, plus optional gunsights depending on which airframe is being built. Options continue for the forward fuselage panels and engine exhausts, with any surgery needed to accommodate the alternative parts identified clearly in the instructions. There's a lovely five-piece replica of the type's 14-cylinder radial engine, including valve push rods – commendable in this scale – and separate reduction gear housing. Stores-wise, there are two styles of underwing drop tank, and these come with corresponding underwing pylons, being located either just inboard or outboard of the main undercarriage. Arma Hobby also has a 3D-printed four-piece landing gear jig (Item 71001) that ensures correct alignment, while holding the model firmly while the glue dries – it's available direct from the firm's website. Arma's decals are excellent, being printed on gloss carrier film and exhibiting perfect register and strong opacity. The markings schemes are:

- 2nd Hiko Tai, Manchukuoan Air Force, 1944
- 15th Hiko Chutai, Royal Thai Air Force, Don Muang Airport, summer 1943
- *Racoon Special*, 8th Fighter Squadron, 49th Fighter Group, Hollandia, May-June 1944

3

UH-60A Black Hawk

By: ICM **Scale:** 1/48
Item no: 48361 **Price:** £53.80
Web: www.hobbyco.net

Having catered for several Special Forces' variants plus airframes operated by Ukraine, ICM recently released the baseline US Army UH-60A version of the ubiquitous Blackhawk helicopter. Compared to the previous UH-60A, there are just 15 runners, including four for the individual main rotor blades and one for the clear parts, but these still allow you to build either an early or late airframe (differences include the radio equipment and countermeasures), although the markings are just for the latter. The detail is magnificent throughout, from the well-appointed cockpit and accurate passenger/cargo compartment (with seats anchored to the ceiling instead of the floor). Note, as the fuselage halves are common to most UH-60 versions, modellers will need to drill holes at specified points for external fittings, such as the M130 flare dispensers. Full length intakes and exhausts are supplied for both engines, and there's an option for open/closed main cabin doors. The main undercarriage is another excellent inclusion, with the fuselage attachments (which serve as locating points for external stores pylons on other variants) captured accurately. Detailed guidance is given on where to drill locating points for early/late antenna fits, although it arguably would have been better to provide flashed-over holes. Markings are supplied for three US Army and National Guard helicopters, all wearing standard FS 34031 Dark Green overall:

87-24642/76 *NOMAD*, Afghanistan, 2005
89-26156/B56, Kentucky National Guard, 2009
80-23424, Montana National Guard, 2013

EUROFIGHTER TYPHOON
single seater
1:72 SCALE KIT
Hasegawa

④

⑤

1/72 special hobby
DC-2 'Transport Revolution'
SH 72511

JUNKERS F13 MID PRODUCTION
GERMAN, POLISH, SWISS SERVICE
1:48 SCALE
48005
MiniArt

⑥

④

Eurofighter Typhoon 'single seater'

By: Hasegawa **Scale:** 1/72
Item no: 01570/ HAE40 **Price:** £44.99
Web: www.amerang.co.uk

Hasegawa's 1/72 Eurofighter Typhoon is another welcome addition to that firm's core range, as it's arguably the best kit of the type in this scale. Unusually, it includes a full selection of underwing stores (essentially Hasegawa's Europe Aircraft Weapons Set 35115). The sole change from the original release is there's no longer a stand included. Parts are supplied on 16 styrene runners, of which six are dedicated to stores, and there's a single frame for the transparencies. Panel lines are commendably fine and there's a half-length representation of the air intake... a blanking plate prevents a 'see-through' model. The kit can be built with the undercarriage raised/lowered, while the canopy can be posed open/closed. Decals are relied upon for the instrument panel and side console detail, although these both include moulded features too. A full complement of three drop tanks is included, along with two each of Stormshadow and KEPD/Taurus missiles, plus Brimstone launchers (with six missiles) and ALARM missiles (although these aren't carried by Typhoon). These are joined by a full set of ASRAAM, AMRAAM, Meteor and IRIS-T air-to-air missiles, presenting plenty of choice. Hasegawa's Typhoon is the only kit in this scale to include a full set of underwing and fuselage pylons. The markings are unchanged, being:

- Typhoon FGR.4, XJ921/QO-H, 3(F) Squadron, RAF Coningsby, 2010
- Typhoon FGR.4, XJ930/AA, 17(R) Squadron, RAF Coningsby, 2012
- Typhoon, 30+30, JG 74, Luftwaffe, Red Flag 12-2, Alaska, June 2012

⑤

DC-2 'Transport Revolution'

By: Special Hobby **Scale:** 1/72
Item no: SH72511 **Price:** €39.40
Web: www.specialhobby.eu

Special Hobby has reissued the previous MPM DC-2 with a selection of new markings for four different pre-war airlines plus 3D-printed parts – these comprise replacement antennas plus new airspeed venturis, a DF loop and spinners. The original kit was released in 2000 as a limited-run product and, as such, there are no locating pins for the fuselage and wings, so modellers will need to take care when ensuring everything is aligned. Special Hobby appears to have maintained the moulds well and this is evident in the lack of flashing, although there are one or two heavy mould seams, while external engraved panel lines seem to be fairly consistent. The title betrays the type's use as a transport aircraft, which means there's just a basic main cabin floor plus a pair bulkheads for the main fuselage interior. All glazing is crystal clear, so modellers may want to add cargo or scratch-build window coverings to mask the internal void. The cockpit is decent, with seats and control wheels for the pilot and co-pilot, plus the instrument panel features moulded dials. Five schemes, all for either aluminium or silver-doped airframes, are supplied and the quality is excellent. The choices are:

- DC-2-112, NC12735, Eastern Air Lines, USA, 1934-1938
- DC-2-210, VH-UYB *Pengana*, Australian National Airways, 1937-1946
- DC-2-210, VH-UYB *Pengana*, Australian National Airways, spring 1939
- DC-2, J-BBOQ/J *Tsukuba*, Dai Nippon Koku Kobushiki Kaisha, Japan, 1937-1945
- DC-2-200, OK-AIC, Československá Letecká Spoliečnost, 1936-39

⑥

Junkers F13 Mid Production 'German, Polish, Swiss Service'

By: MiniArt **Scale:** 1/48
Item no: 48005 **Price:** £52.99
Web: www.creativemodels.co.uk

MiniArt's latest quarter-scale boxing of the Junkers F13 depicts several mid-production airframes, with the changes provided on two frames shared with the firm's previous F13 Floatplane (48004), supplying new wings and fuselage sections. There's also a new frame for a fresh rudder, plus a photo-etched (PE) brass fret, which includes spoked hubs for the undercarriage wheels. The new wings have longer ailerons and, unlike the original versions, these come as one-piece items. As with previous iterations, modellers can build the wings either extended or removed for road transport. Similarly, the cockpit is well detailed, including PE items such as control column cables and seatbelts, while individual dial decals will help enliven the instrument panel. A full passenger interior is provided, with each seat benefitting from PE seatbelts, while the type's six-cylinder engine is replicated faithfully as a 20-piece sub-assembly; MiniArt supplies separate cowling panels, which should allow the engine to be visible in the finished model. The wings are superb, with formers for the inner and outer sections and different inserts depending on whether the wings are attached or in transport configuration. Modellers have a choice between spoked and solid wheel hubs, with the former being PE items – note, these will need bending but, surprisingly, MiniArt hasn't included a jig to help. The markings options are:

- CH-91, Ad Astra Aero, Switzerland, early 1920s
- P-PALD Daniel, PLL Aerolet, Poland, early 1920s
- D-230 *Wiedehopf*, Deutsche Luft Hansa AG, 1920s

AIRLINER ATR-42-300
TURBOPROP REGIONAL AIRLINER
American Eagle

7

eduard
ProfiPACK edition
ツ-415
A6M2-K
scale 1/48

9

GLOSTER E28/39
PIONEER
1:48
CP4823
STARTER

8

7

Airliner ATR-42-300

By: X-Scale **Scale:** 1/144
Item no: X144009 **Price:** $36
Web: www.x-scalemodels.com

X-Scale's latest offering is a new-tool ATR-42 regional airliner, and it's typical of the Ukrainian firm's recent 1/144 scale' kits, with sharply defined external panel lines and, despite there being no locating tabs on the fuselage halves, inserts and separate panels will ensure proper alignment. The cockpit is easily the standout element as, even in this scale, there's a busy cockpit, with instrument panel, seats, rudder pedals, control wheels and side consoles. A clear styrene canopy 'cap' encloses the cockpit, this being a fuselage section onto which pre-cut, self-adhesive masks are applied to protect the glazing… although decals are included for those who prefer 'solid' windows. The main undercarriage bay is a four-piece unit that fits inside a lower fuselage panel section – in turn this fits into an opening in the airframe and, with care, it will help with fuselage alignment. The nosewheel bay is simpler, with a four-piece leg (including separate scissor links) added to a recessed bay. The main undercarriage is equally impressive, featuring detail normally seen on 1/72 subjects. Equal refinement is on offer for the engine nacelles and propellers; the former have a full-length exhaust, plus a solid representation of the intake mesh, which will prevent them being see-through. A single markings scheme is included for an American Eagle Airlines aircraft, but all trim is in decal form, which should ease painting considerably; all fuselage windows are depicted in this format, too. The airframe details are:

- N262AT, American Eagle Airlines, O'Hara International Airport, Chicago, USA, 1996

8

Gloster E28/30 Pioneer

By: Clear Prop **Scale:** 1/48
Item no: CP4823 **Price:** €34
Web: www.clearpropmodels.com

Clear Prop's 1/72 E28/39 delighted modellers, but those who prefer 1/48 subjects have had to wait a little longer… making this new tooling most welcome. Parts are moulded crisply, being presented on eight styrene runners and, while it may appear to be a limited-run style offering at first glance, there are locating pins for the main fuselage, wings and empennage and there's an absence of mould seams/flashing or surface blemishes. This is the Starter Set, so there are just styrene components; based on the 1/72 kit, parts breakdown and presence of internal framework in the central and aft fuselage, it's likely the Advanced version will have a fully detailed centrifugal engine. That said, the kit is bursting with detail even in this format; the cockpit is replete with detail, including control rod housings, seat adjustment lever and instrument panel levers. Note, dials benefit from a smart decal. The air intake is similarly impressive, featuring the type's six aerodynamic vanes (three on each side), while the jet nozzle is a full-length unit. Mainwheels are halved, which allows Clear Prop to replicate the five-spoke style hub accurately, plus there are commendably thin debris guards for each undercarriage leg. Four markings schemes are supplied, featuring two airframes (one is depicted at three different time periods, wearing either Dark Green/Dark Sea Grey over Trainer Yellow or overall aluminium lacquer:

- W4041, RAF Cranwell, May 1941
- W4041, RAE Farnborough, December 1944
- W4041, Brockworth, April 1941
- W4046, RAE Farnborough, July 1943

9

A6M2-K

By: Eduard **Scale:** 1/48
Item no: 82218 **Price:** £25.27
Web: www.eduard.com

Having worked steadily through the single-seat A6M variants, Eduard surprised modellers with an A6M2-K two-seat trainer. Three styrene runners are common with the Type 21 kit, providing the wings, propeller, drop tank, front cockpit and engine components, while three new frames supply items such as a dual-seat cockpit floor, revised fuselage, parts for the rear cockpit and revised fuselage tailcone. The transparent runner is all new and offers parts for the extended canopy (including an optional open/closed rear glazing section); similarly, a pre-painted photo-etched metal fret supplies extra detail for the interior, such as replacement instrument panels, seatbelts and control levers, with a bonus two-piece guntō (military sword). Given Eduard's attention to detail, the interior is exquisite, and the firm has also released accessory sets for those who want to upgrade their model. The rest of the kit is 'core' A6M as per the rest of this kit 'family', with inserts for the wings to reflect the lack of weapons in the mainplanes… there is a superb pair of machine guns for the fuselage, though. Eduard has been generous with the markings, which cater for six airframes in various colour schemes:

- 415, Tsukuba Kōkūtai, Tsukuba Base, Japan, 1944
- 32-520, (probably) Kōkūtai 332, Japan, 1945
- 205-324, Kōkūtai 205, Taiwan, 1945
- 427, Ens Daiji Matsufuji, Kamikaze Tokubetsu Kōgekitai, 1st Schichisei-tai, Kanoya airbase, Japan, April 1945
- 1420, Tainan Kōkūtai (II), Tainan airbase, Taiwan, summer 1944
- 419, Kōnoike Kōkūtai, Kōnoike airbase, Japan, 1944

PARA GRAFIX
www.ParaGrafix.biz

NEW:
Gun Port Interiors
for the classic MPC
Millennium Falcon Kit!
Works great with our replacement cockpit!

We ship worldwide, or see our "Where to Buy" page for links to dealers in Europe and elsewhere around the world.

KS MODELS
At the heart of model making

A Great Little Model Shop
in Old Town, Stevenage

www.ks-models.co.uk

AIRFIX TAMIYA ITALERI AFV CLUB TRUMPETER Revell RODEN AMMO mig Jimenez GAMES WORKSHOP

- ✓ All Major Manufacturers & More!
- ✓ Tools, Paints & Materials
- ✓ Scalextric & Diecast
- ✓ Model Railways
- ✓ Pre-owned
- ✓ Mail Order

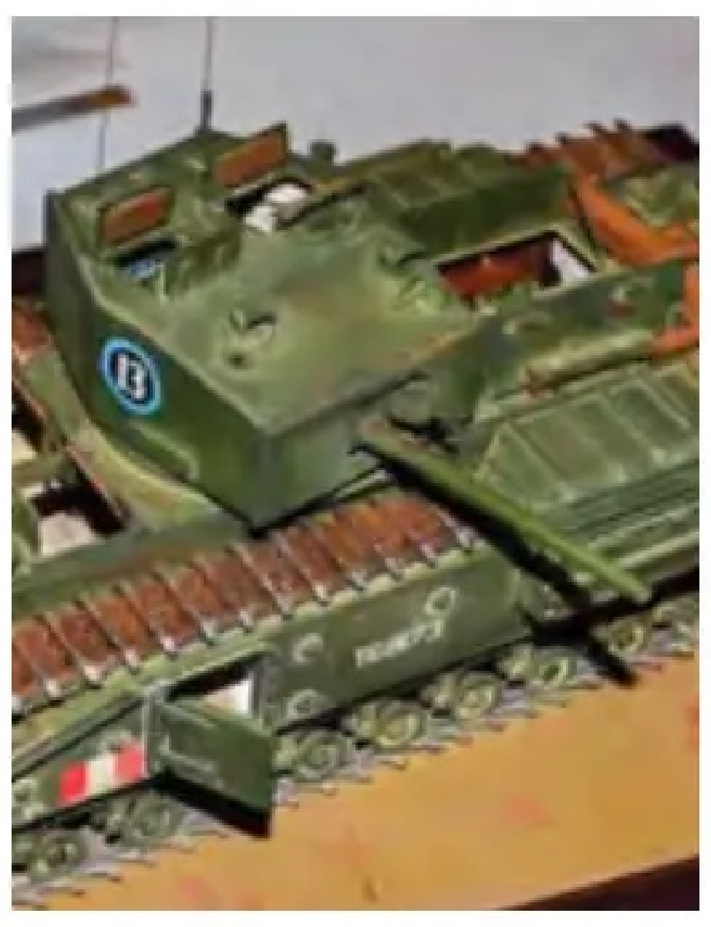
30
30 Years in Stevenage
(44 years in business)

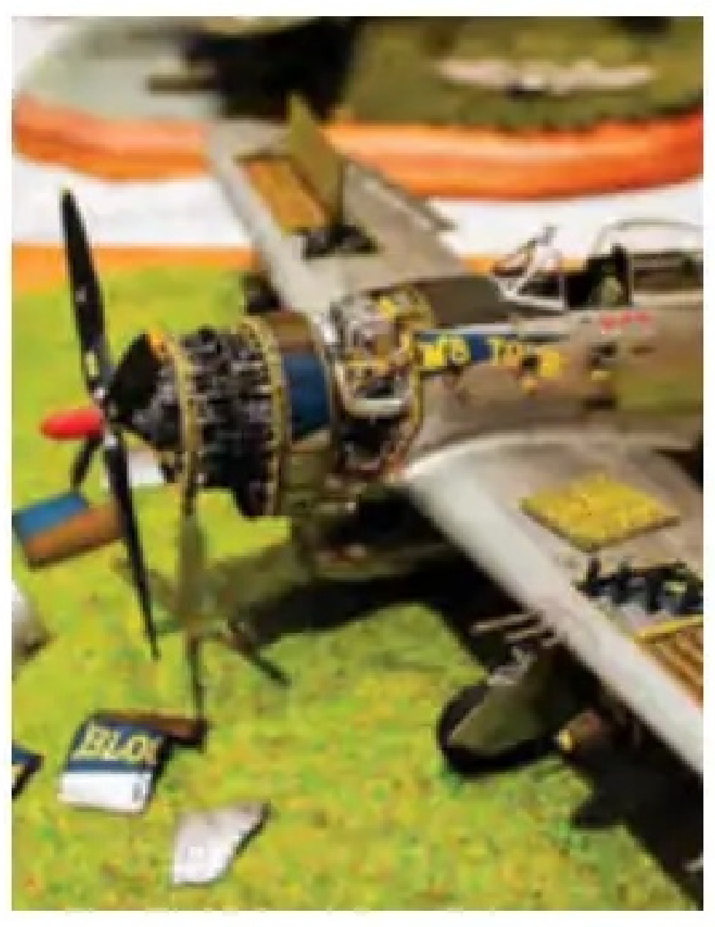
Email: russell@ks-models.co.uk

Shop:
01438 746616
Thurs - Sat, 10am - 5pm
19 Middle Row, Stevenage SG1 3AW

Helpdesk:
07858 546855
Mon - Sat, 10am - 5pm
Phone - Text - WhatsApp

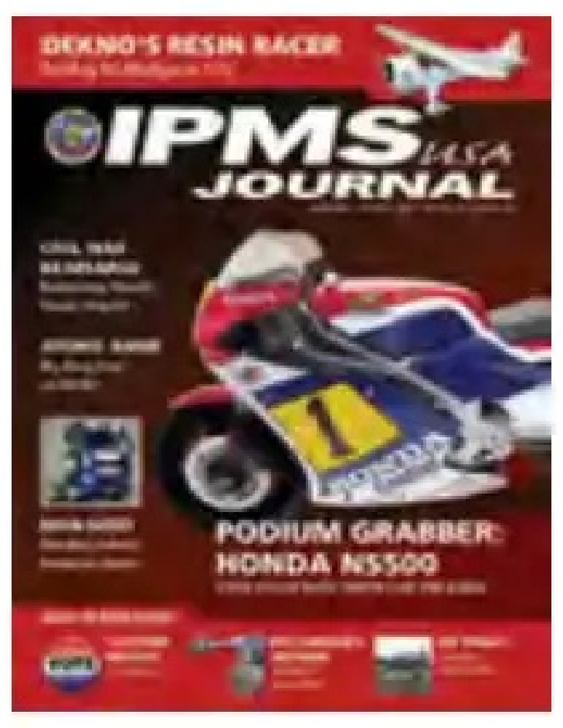
Build Better Models!



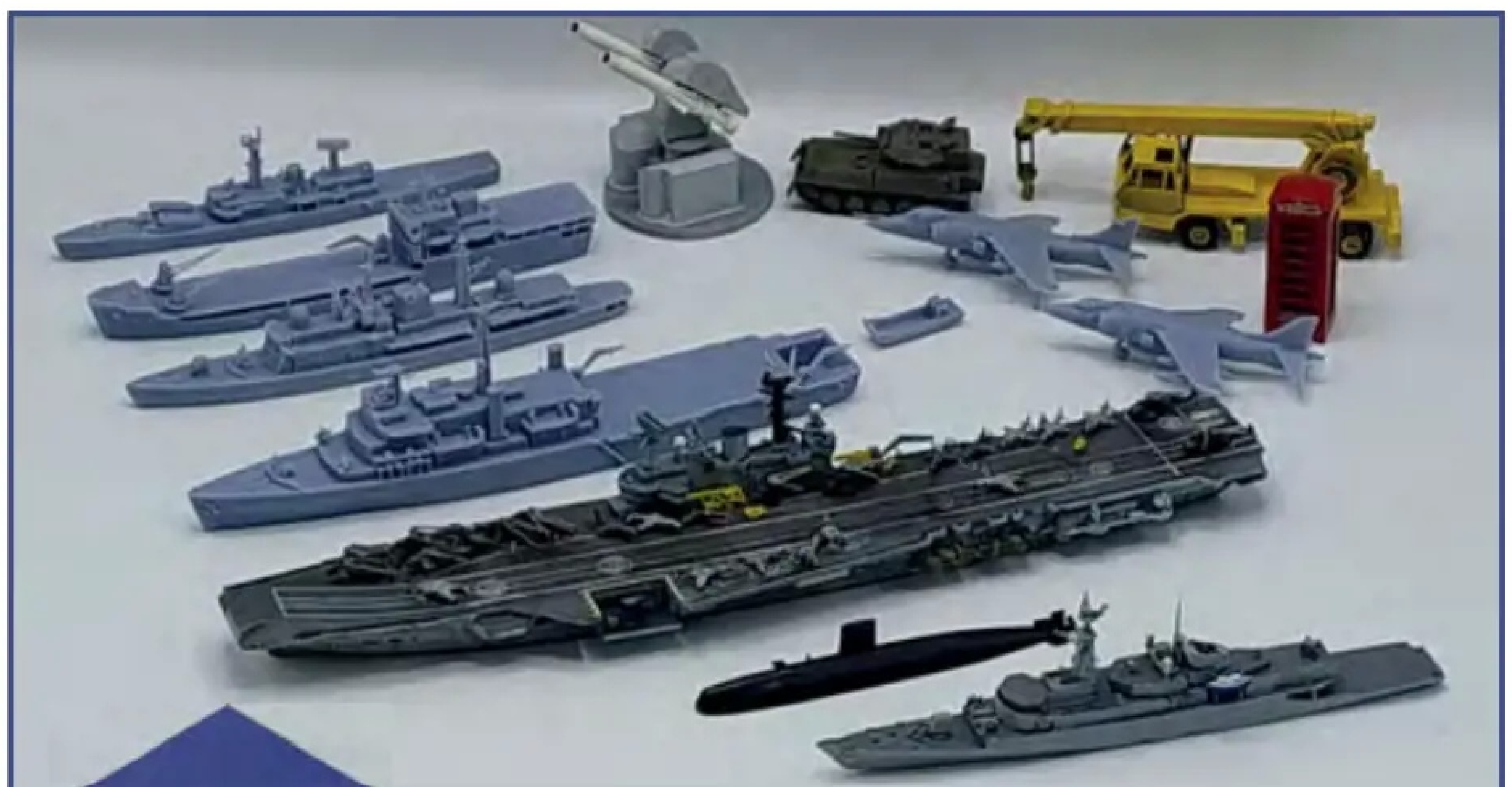


- Learn to build and share your skills
- 200 active local chapters
- Local model contests
- The IPMS/USA website with product reviews, galleries, and discussion forums
- The bi-monthly IPMS/USA Journal magazine

IPMS USA JOURNAL
STREET FIGHTER



IPMS/USA
By Modelers, For Modelers
www.ipmsusa.org



THE DORSET PRINT MAN

The Dorset Print Man
3D Printed Scale Models

The Dorset Print Man has a range of unpainted ships, helicopters, planes, vehicles, buildings, armaments and conversion kits. Our website lists models in all scales from 1/1250 to 1/48

Our range particularly features Royal Navy ships and helicopters from Modern, Falklands, Cold war, Suez and WW2

Models made in the UK

Models made in the UK

Email: sales@thedorsetprintman.com
www.thedorsetprintman.com

Russian-Ukrainian War series
UA
MB
№MB35240
Buggy Mongoose.
The Ukrainian Battlefield evacuation version

①

M24 Chaffee
1:35
ITALERI
No 6761

②

RAUPENSCHLEPPER
OST RSO/01
LATE PROD
35482
MiniArt
SCALE 1:35

③

①

Buggy Mongoose The Ukrainian Battlefield Evacuation Version

By: Master Box **Scale:** 1/35
Item no: MB35240 **Price:** £27.99
Web: www.creativemodels.co.uk

Released at the same time as the initial Buggy Mongoose (*AMW*176, July 2025 issue), this version depicts a battlefield ambulance/evacuation vehicle. The parts are unchanged, it's just that the five-piece stretcher is used in this kit. All styrene components are presented on two runners, joined by five solid vinyl tyres and a photo-etched brass fret. This last item supplies a superb cage-style stowage box for the vehicle's rear, plus what appears to be a weapons mount on the steering column framework. The vehicle's monocoque chassis and front-wheel drive are captured accurately, and the high-quality moulding means there is no flashing or sink marks – note, though, that several extra ejector pin tags are used on items such as the wheel hubs to facilitate the high level of detail. Three seats are employed (the fourth rearward-facing seat is omitted), with the rear item mounted centrally (as on reference photos). The Mongoose's robust yet simple form is captured very well by Master Box (which worked with the local Baggi Mangust company to create this kit) and part of the proceeds from the kit sales will be used to support the Ukrainian Armed Forces. Modellers will need to scratch-build the vehicle's suspension springs, though, with the best approach probably being to wind copper or lead wire around a suitably sized paint brush handle and then cut to size. As with the original kit, there are no markings, although the painting guidance depicts an overall Olive Drab vehicle to which modellers could add Ukrainian digital camouflage should they prefer.

②

M24 Chaffee

By: Italeri **Scale:** 1/35
Item no: 6761 **Price:** £29.99
Web: www.hobbyco.net

Compared to other light tanks of the period, the M24 Chaffee has been poorly served by kit manufacturers, with just three styrene 1/35 offerings, with the oldest being that from Italeri, which has recently been re-released. It's essentially the 2012 boxing, albeit with the original band-style vinyl track lengths in addition to the newer link-and-length versions and a turned aluminium gun barrel, plus fresh markings for five Olice Drab vehicles. It comprises five styrene runners, of which two are dedicated to the link-and-length tracks, which exhibit decent tread and guide-horn detail. The remaining frames are as per the original kit release (still bearing the #244 item number) yet despite being almost 40 years old there is little, if any, flashing and minimal sink marks. While the moulded detail may not hold up to modern standards, especially on items such as the stowed tarpaulin and weld beads, it's otherwise pleasing. Italeri provides grab handles as separate items – fiddly, but more convincing than an integral representation on the hull. The markings choices are:

- White 9, 81st Recon Sqn, 1st Armd Div, US Army, Pioppe di Salvaro, northern Italy, spring 1945
- T441275/Red 5 *Annie*, 3rd Royal Tank Regt, 22nd Armd Bde, 7th Armd Div, British Army, Germany, spring 1945
- 105032, Esercito Italiano, Gruppo Squadroni Cavalleria Blindata 'Guide', Divisione Corazzata 'Ariete', Casarsa, Friuli Venezia Guilia, 1954
- Yellow 4, 1er Regiment Chasseur a Cheval, Armée de Terre, Indochina, 1952
- White 719 *Lt Lemercier*, School der Pantsertroepen, Belgin Army, Aarlen/Arlon, Belgium, 1954

③

Raupenschlepper Ost RSO/01 Late Prod

By: MiniArt **Scale:** 1/35
Item no: 35482 **Price:** £49.99
Web: www.creativemodels.co.uk

Hot on the heels of its other RSO/01 releases, MiniArt has addressed late-production vehicles with its most recent offering. Compared with previous iterations, there are ten new/replacement runners, providing for the later running gear, simplified canvas tilt, a revised cab floor (over the transmission unit), dashboard and track grousers. There is also a new photo-etched (PE) brass fret and decal sheet. All styrene parts are moulded to MiniArt's high standards, with no signs of flashing or blemishes, and the detail is superb. Much effort has gone into capturing the vehicle's efficient design, and the suspension and running gear are one of the kit's highlights, although both are still complex sub-assemblies. The engine is another standout element, with the type's V8 powerplant replicated faithfully – it comprises more than 30 individual parts and includes exhaust pipes, timing belt and filter unit. The running gear is all new and joins with a set of detailed link-and-length tracks – these have optional snow/ice grousers – while the cab and cargo bed include options for open/closed doors, and a covered/uncovered load area. MiniArt provides markings for four vehicles, all with a Dunkelgeb (Dark Yellow) base colour, overlaid with various forms of camouflage:

- WH1447797, PzGren-Div Großdeutschland, Eastern Front, autumn 1943
- WH1448382, Heeres-Artillerie-Abt 51, Albania, 1943
- WH1141393, le. Artillerie-Abt (RSO) 733, Italy, 1944
- WH1500128, I. Skijäger Bde, Eastern Front, winter 1943-44

Sd.Kfz.251/1 Ausf.B
ICM
1:35
35106

4

Thunder
1/35 SCALE
US HEAVY WRECKER WARD LAFRANCE
Model 1000 - Series 1
No. 35009

5

Sd.Kfz.234/1 SCHWERER PANZERSPÄHWAGEN 2 CM
LATE MODIFICATION
1:35 SCALE
35413
MiniArt

6

4

Sd.Kfz.251/1 Ausf. B

By: ICM **Scale:** 1/35
Item no: 35106 **Price:** £39.99
Web: www.hobbyco.net

Having released a family of Sd.JKfz.251 Ausf. A kits, ICM has now issued an Ausf. B, with this initial boxing depicting the standard troop-carrying 251/1. Changes to the design were limited to the removal of pistol/vision ports in the passenger section's upper hull, along with a rearrangement of the internal and external stowage. For the kit, this is presented as single new upper hull component on a fresh Runner H (the original hull is still on Runner A, but is unused), plus reinforcement strips for the front mudguards. This means there are seven styrene runners in total, including one frame holding the clear parts (most of which are not used), plus vinyl tyres for the front wheels and band-style single-length tracks. All parts are moulded crisply and the detail is superb throughout. Assembly of the lower hull occupies the first two pages of instructions, after which attention turns to the front axle and then the type's Maybach powerplant, which can be displayed thanks to the optionally open engine panels. The driver and passenger compartments are as per the Ausf. A, so there are crew weapons, spare MG 34 barrels, ammunition boxes and drums, under-seat stowage and even rolled tarpaulins, making for a busy appearance. There are five markings schemes, three of which appear to be wearing a form of temporary distemper (white or dark yellow) over the basic Panzer Grey colour:

- 9th Panzer Division, Balkans, 1941
- 5th Panzer Division, Romania, 1941
- Eastern Front, late 1941
- 15th Panzer Division, North Africa, 1942
- 21st Panzer Division, North Africa, 1942

5

US Heavy Wrecker Ward Lafrance Model 1000 – Series 1

By: Thunder Model **Scale:** 1/35
Item no: 35009 **Price:** £59.95
Web: www.albionhobbies.com

It might be hard to believe, but until Thunder's initial Heavy Wrecker Ward Lafrance kit, there wasn't a styrene version of this US Army recovery vehicle. Now the firm is onto its fourth release, with a fifth in the offing. This boxing depicts a Series 1 vehicle and comprises eight runners, plus four photo-etched (PE) metal frets, six 3D-printed components, three pieces of clear acetate and lengths of thread and chain. Fortunately, Thunder has colour coded the parts in the instructions, allowing easy identification. Decals are supplied for two Olive Drab-coloured vehicles, but no unit detail is given. The wheels are split vertically, with separate outer hubs for the rear wheels – this element is moulded integrally on the other items, so modellers will need to mask the hub or tyre when painting. This is a magnificently detailed kit, from the multi-piece engine and transmission unit to the excellent crane unit, which benefits from PE cross-members, jib supports, boom/pulley unit sides. The tricky part is likely to be the use of the thread and chains to recreate the pulleys and hook mechanism, but the results will be stunning. The combination of parts breakdown and multi-media components means this is aimed at the more experienced modeller, but if you're looking for a heavy recovery vehicle, either as a standalone model or as part of a diorama, then it's ideal. Decals are limited to vehicle serial numbers plus US insignia, but they appear well printed and exhibit strong tonal density.

6

Sd.Kfz.234/1 Schwerer Panzerspähwagen 2cm Late Modification

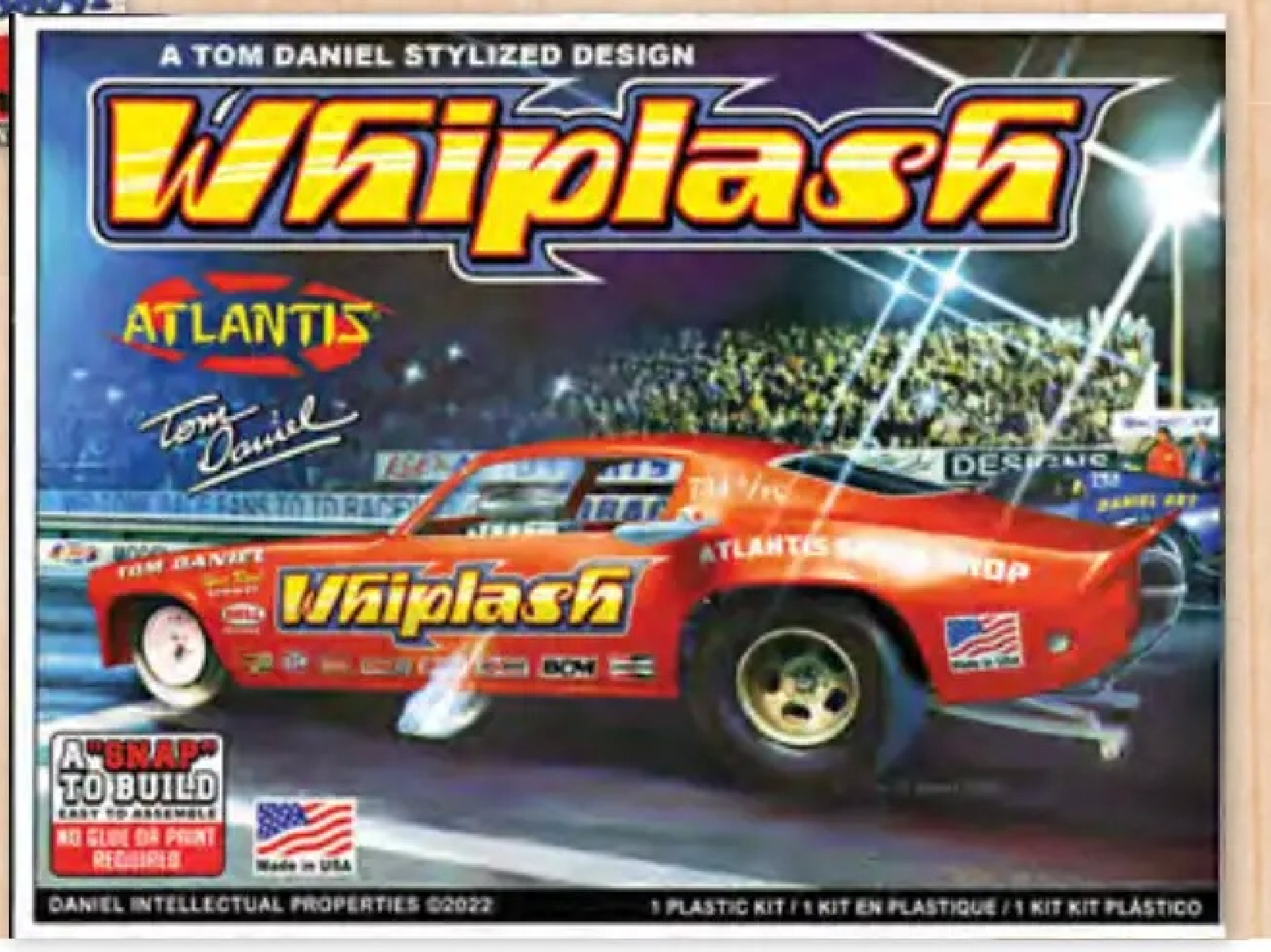
By: MiniArt **Scale:** 1/35
Item no: 35413 **Price:** £54.99
Web: www.creativemodels.co.uk

MiniArt is going all out to capture all sub-variants of the Sd.Kfz.234, including modifications seen on late-production vehicles. There's just a single parts change, this being the replacement of the side skirt parts on Runner Na with new items on Eb; these reflect the vehicle's simplified structure, with just two stowage hatches per side. Otherwise the kit is unchanged, and although this is 'just' the baseline version, there are still 21 styrene runners plus a photo-etched (PE) brass fret – this last element provides jerrycan welds and stowage straps plus a star antenna and mesh turret coverings. MiniArt's attention to detail is apparent throughout, from the spare 20mm ammunition boxes, batteries, driver's position and central hull fittings – all of which can viewed either through the turret top or an optional open side hatch. The suspension is just as impressive, with crisply formed leaf-spring units, while the modeller has an option between two- and five-piece wheels. There's also a choice of styrene or PE muzzle for the 20mm cannon, while the turret – despite the kit being 'basic' – features adjustment handles, a full cannon mount, crew seating and a full coaxial MG 34. Five markings schemes are supplied, each with a different style of camouflage:

- WH1868310, early 1945
- WH1868316, Panzer Aufklärungs-Abteilung 4, 4. Pz-Div, Danzig area, February-March 1945
- WH1868334, Pz Aufk-Abt 125, 25. Pzgren-Div, Germany, 1945
- WH1868325, Elbe River area, April-May 1945
- Unidentified vehicle, early 1945

LAND UTILITY TRACTOR STANDARD N
MOD. 1935
AVW141
38091
SCALE
1:35
MINIATURES SERIES

①


A TOM DANIEL STYLIZED DESIGN
Whiplash
ATLANTIS
Tom Daniel
Whiplash
A SNAP TO BUILD
DANIEL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTIES ©2022
1 PLASTIC KIT / 1 KIT EN PLASTIQUE / 1 KIT KIT PLASTICO

②

Nissan 240RS BS110
'84 SAFARI RALLY
Castrol
NISSAN
DUNLOP

③

①

Land Utility Tractor Standard N Mod. 1936

By: MiniArt **Scale:** 1/35
Item no: 38091 **Price:** £37.99
Web: www.creativemodels.co.uk

MiniArt's latest tractor – having produced multiple versions of the German D8500-series – is a British-built Fordson Model N tractor, which was used heavily during World War Two by the Women's Land Army. This new tooling depicts the Mod.1935 version, which had pneumatic tyres, and comes with markings for three vehicles. Parts are supplied on six styrene runners, plus a photo-etched (PE) brass fret. MiniArt also provides drawings to aid modellers in scratch-building several control rods. Just as with its previous kits, MiniArt's approach has been to mimic how the real vehicle is produced, so the build starts with the engine and transmission, which then serves as the framework for everything else. The seat has proper open lightening/drainage holes, while those for the footplates appear to be partially flashed, but should be simple to open with a drill. Modellers seeking extra refinement can use MiniArt's extra diagrams, which show how to add scratch-built cables and wiring. The use of PE is kept to a minimum, with the radiator grille being an optional item, but neat touches include the engraved fuel tank plate with its 'Ford Motor Company England' legend, and an accurate three-point hitch for the rear. All four tyres use MiniArt's multi-component approach, which minimises mould and join seams while maximising detail. The three markings choices are:
AVW141, Scotland, late 1930-40s
DDH562, England, late 1930-40s
N-41263, Noord-Brabant, The Netherlands, late 1930-40s

②

Chevrolet Camaro 'Whiplash'

By: Atlantis **Scale:** 1/32
Item no: M8276 **Price:** £29.99
Web: www.amerang.co.uk

Monogram's snap-together 'funny car' hasn't been widely available for many years in the UK, so its return, in Atlantis packaging, is welcome. This classic kit was one of many designed by Tom Daniel, and comes with new decals reflecting both its heritage and current owners. Parts-wise, it's unchanged from the original boxing, although there are fewer bright colours and no chrome-plated items… yet the bodyshell is still moulded in a delightfully garish orange tone. Highlights include the one-piece driver's seat and chassis – with this part being crucial to the model's subsequent 'fun' elements, including hinged bodyshell. You'd be forgiven for thinking this was fairly modern, given the lack of flash – a sign of well-kept moulds – but the bodyshell sink marks give its age away somewhat. Two-piece wheels each have embossed manufacturer's legends on the sidewalls; the rears are 'slick' but the front tyres have tread. There's a decent representation of the car's V8 powerplant and transmission unit, and while its simplicity will appeal to beginners, there's plenty of scope for the more experienced modeller, and the exhaust pipes (moulded in black) will look stunning in chrome paint. The decal sheet is similarly superb, featuring the original 'Whiplash' legend along the vehicle's sides, along with a host of sponsorship labels, plus those of Atlantis and a the name 'Tom Daniel' on the front wings. This may not be the most complex kit, with just 35 parts, but it will be easy to build and, thanks to the poseable bodyshell with moveable support arm, promises loads of fun when finished.

③

Nissan 240RS BS 110 '84 Safari Rally

By: Beemax **Scale:** 1/24
Item no: BX24041 **Price:** £49.99
Web: www.hobbyco.net

Beemax has recently re-issued its lovely Nissan 240RS BS 110; it's unchanged form the original 2017 boxing, and has the same artwork. The kit comprises 12 styrene runners (including two frames for the transparent parts), a separate one-piece white bodyshell, four vinyl tyres, self-adhesive chromed inserts for the wing mirrors and a pre-cut, self-adhesive masking set. In terms of complexity, this is one of the simpler car kits available, lacking photo-etched metal components, and supplied seatbelts in decal form – along with dial clusters on the dashboard. It's a kerbside offering, meaning that once the well-appointed drivers' cab – with bucket-style seats, foot pedals, gear lever, steering wheel and fire extinguisher – is completed, attention turns to the vehicle's exterior. The Nissan's alloy wheels are replicated accurately, while the low-profile tyres have a convincing tread. Chromed parts are included for items such as the light cluster reflectors, plus inserts for the front grille and bonnet-mounted spot lamps. If there is a grumble with this kit it's probably the almost 8mm-wide attachment gate between a runner section and the bodyshell, which will require more care than usual when removing and neatening. Markings are provided for car #2, driven by Shekhar Mehta and Rob Combes during the 1984 Safari Rally, finishing fifth out of 25 entrants. The decals are well printed on gloss carrier film, with excellent tonal density and crisp demarcations. A full-colour painting and decaling guide is included, and Beemax has included all sponsorship and manufacturing logos, plus DayGlo sections for the doors and a windscreen anti-dazzle panel.

Exclusive products | Modelling essentials | Limited editions | Exclusive products

KEY Publishing Model World SHOP

EXCLUSIVE AIRFIX SPITFIRE MK.IXC 1/72 SCALE STARTER SET

Create a unique Spitfire with the exclusive Model World LIVE and Malcs Models 1/72 Spitfire Mk.IXc starter set with brand-new decals to recreate MA621.

The exclusive Airfix kit was developed for Model World LIVE to mark the appearance of Simply Spitfire's stunning full-size replica Mk.IXc at the show on April 26/27 2025 at the NEC in Birmingham. It is the first time that the Airfix 1/72 Spitfire Mk.IXc has been made available as a starter set.

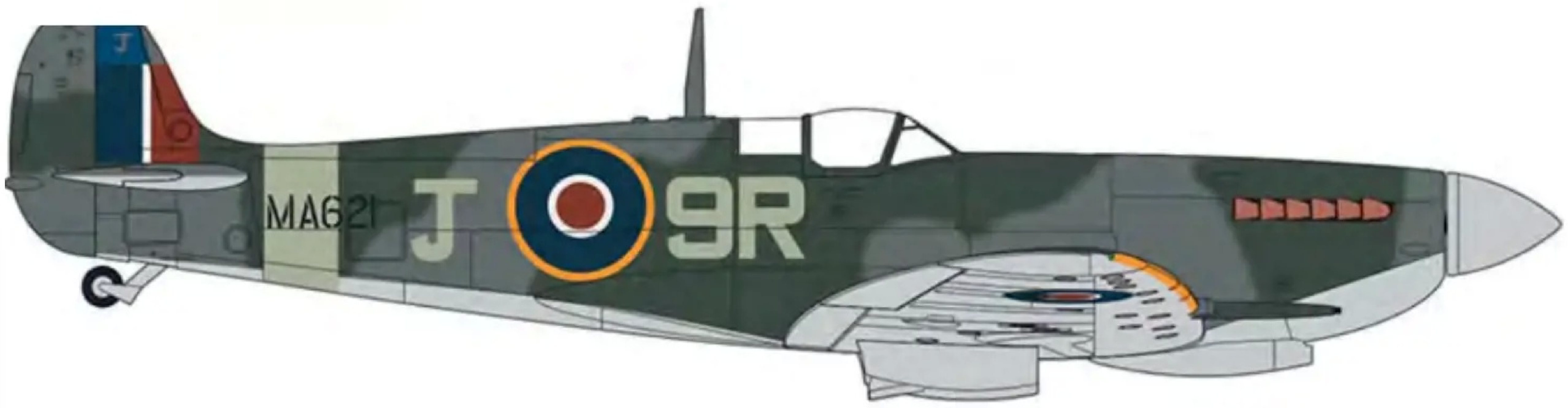
AIRFIX
giftSET
Poly Cement
Humbrol
AIRFIX
MALCS MODELS OF ILKESTON
Key Model World LIVE
9R J MA621
LIMITED EDITION
8+
1:72 SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE Mk.IXc

The starter set contains injection moulded parts for the aircraft together with the unique and highly detailed decal sheet for MA621 plus glue, basic paint colours and a paint brush.

The unique decal sheet models all the details of MA621 as flown by F/Sgt. William A Hoskins with 229 Squadron based at RAF Coltishall, England in July 1944. It didn't serve for long, as in the same month as it was completed it stalled on approach to Swannington leading to a crash landing which saw the airframe split in two.

This new kit builds a stunning 1/72 scale replica of this Second World War aircraft.

ONLY £11.99

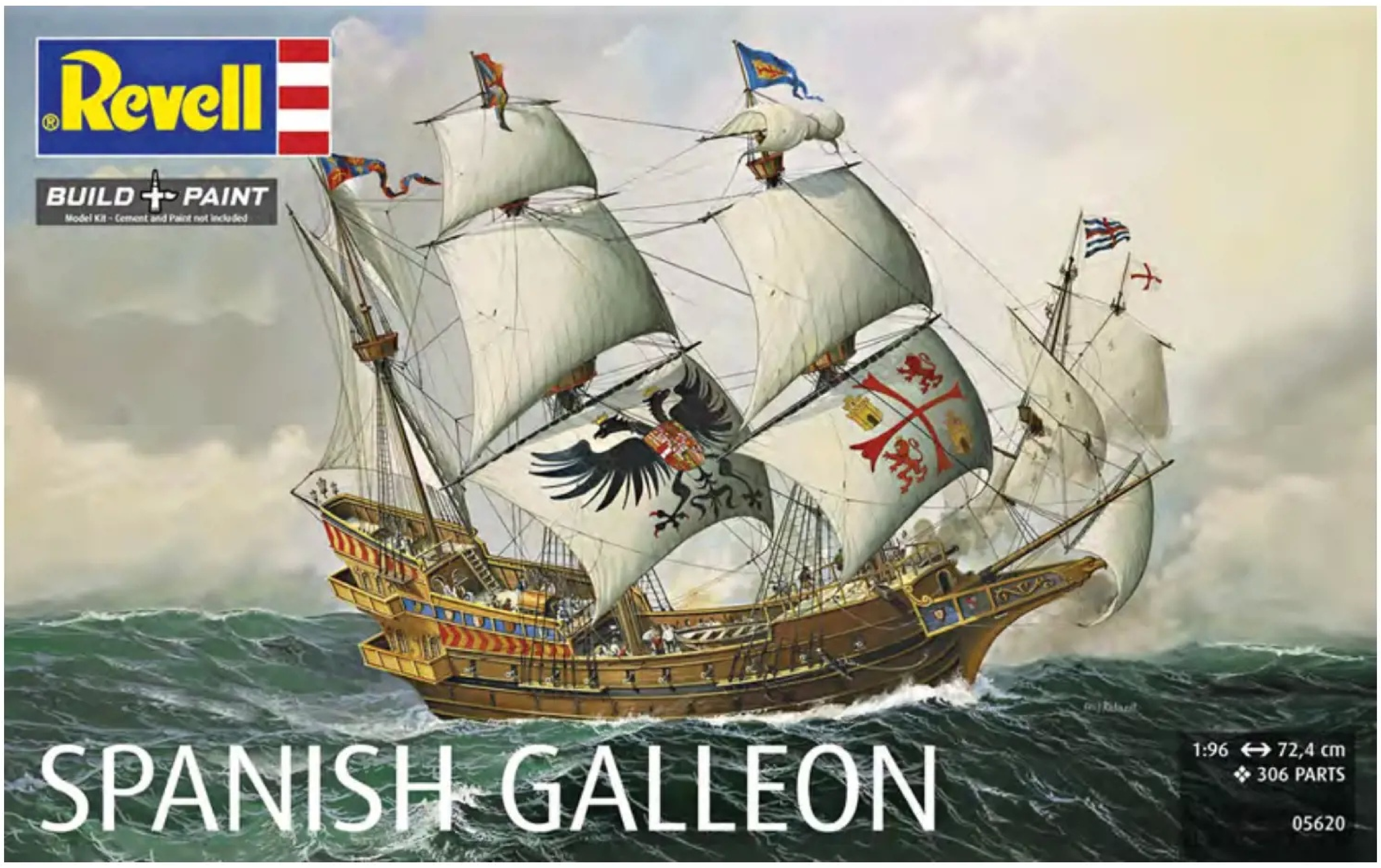


Scan the QR code for full details of all our modelling products on our online shop:

shop.keymodelworld.com/collections/scale-model-kits

889/25

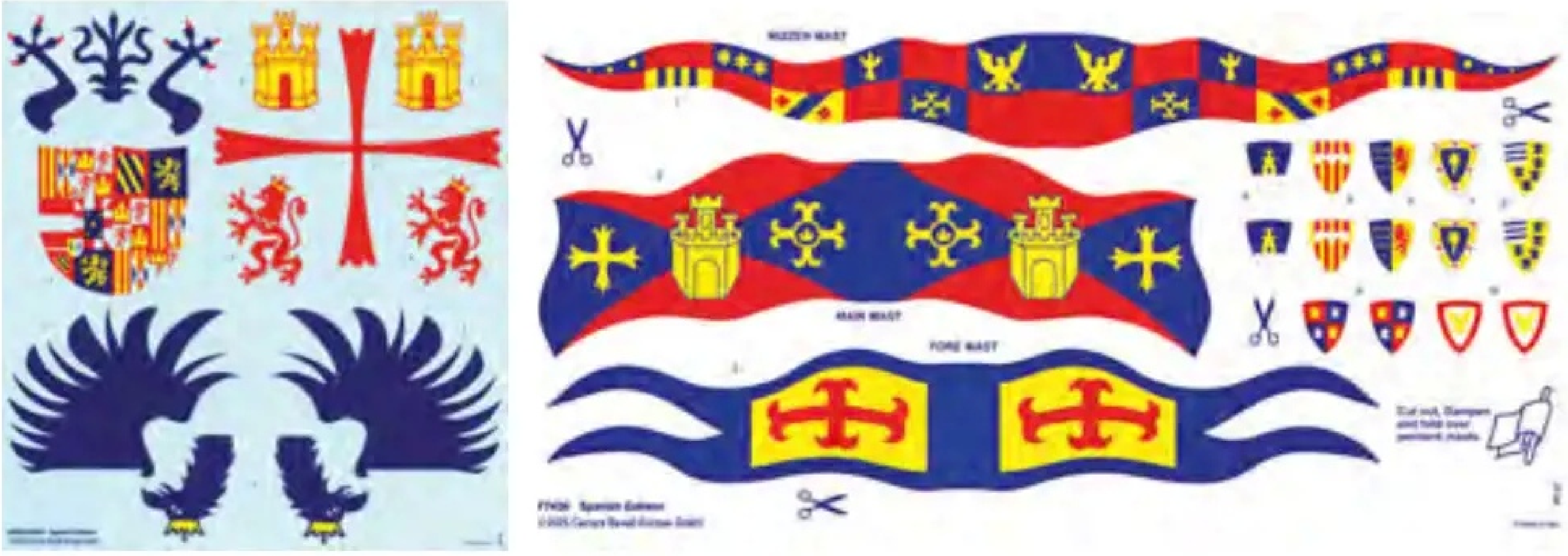
REVELL'S VINTAGE SPANISH GALLEON



Spanish Galleon | **By:** Revell | **Scale:** 1/96 (see notes) | **Item No:** 05620 | **Price:** £99.99 | **Web:** www.revell.co.uk

Impressive Spanish sailing ship from Revell

Revell's Spanish Galleon was first released in 1970 and depicts a 16th century ship. The current boxing is its fifth, and while the styrene is unchanged, it's joined by six bobbins of thread (two medium, two fine and two coarse), plus a length of heavy twine for the anchor rope.



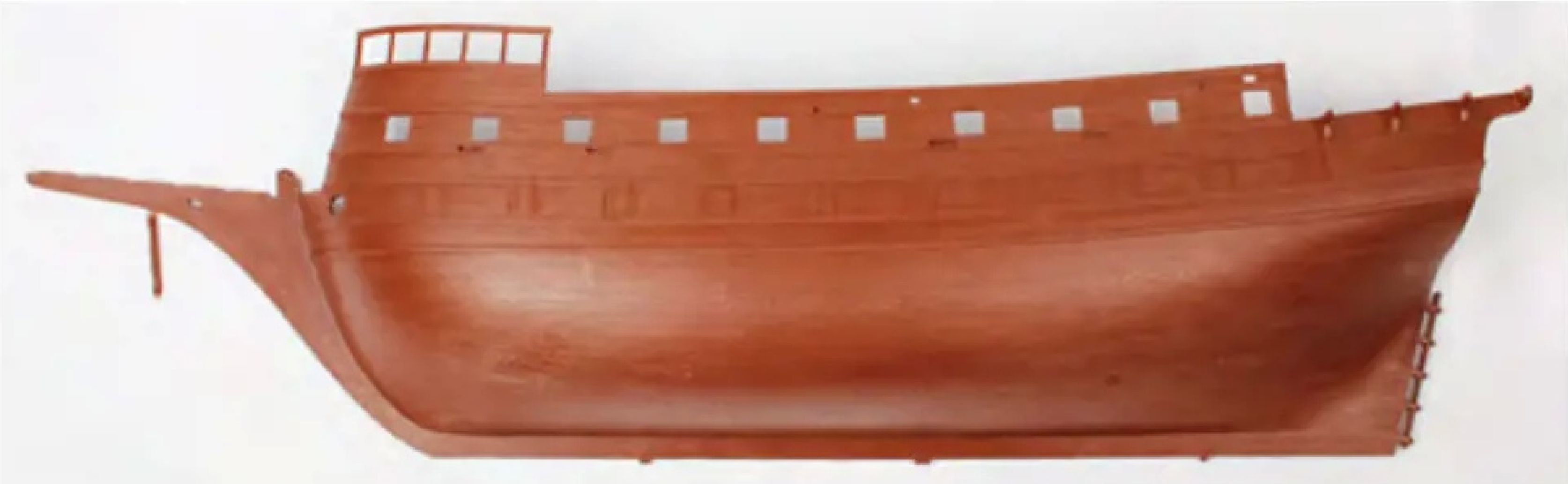
The kit comprises six styrene runners, four in a reddish-brown colour to emulate wood, one in black (supplying the sail shrouds – also called ratlines) and the final two are white; these last items provide a total of 40 crew figures, being a mix of sailors and what appear to be Spanish conquistadors. Sails are supplied as vac-form items on two styrene sheets. The moulding is generally good, but several parts suffer from flashing and there are numerous ejector-pin release marks. A comparison with reference drawings shows that Revell has captured the key characteristics of the galleon well, from the beakhead at the bow to the use of a lateen sail arrangement on the mizzen mast (at the ship's stern) and the elevated quarterdeck/aftcastle, with its richly ornate designs.

With accurate rendering of the ship's carvel hull and a mass of individual deadeyes for the rigging, this will build into an impressive model. One nagging issue concerns the stated scale: Revell's boxtop declares it to be 1/96, but this would make the 24mm figures 8ft tall, and several sources declare it's actually 1/64, which would equate to approximately 5ft (the average height of a Spanish male during the 16th century).

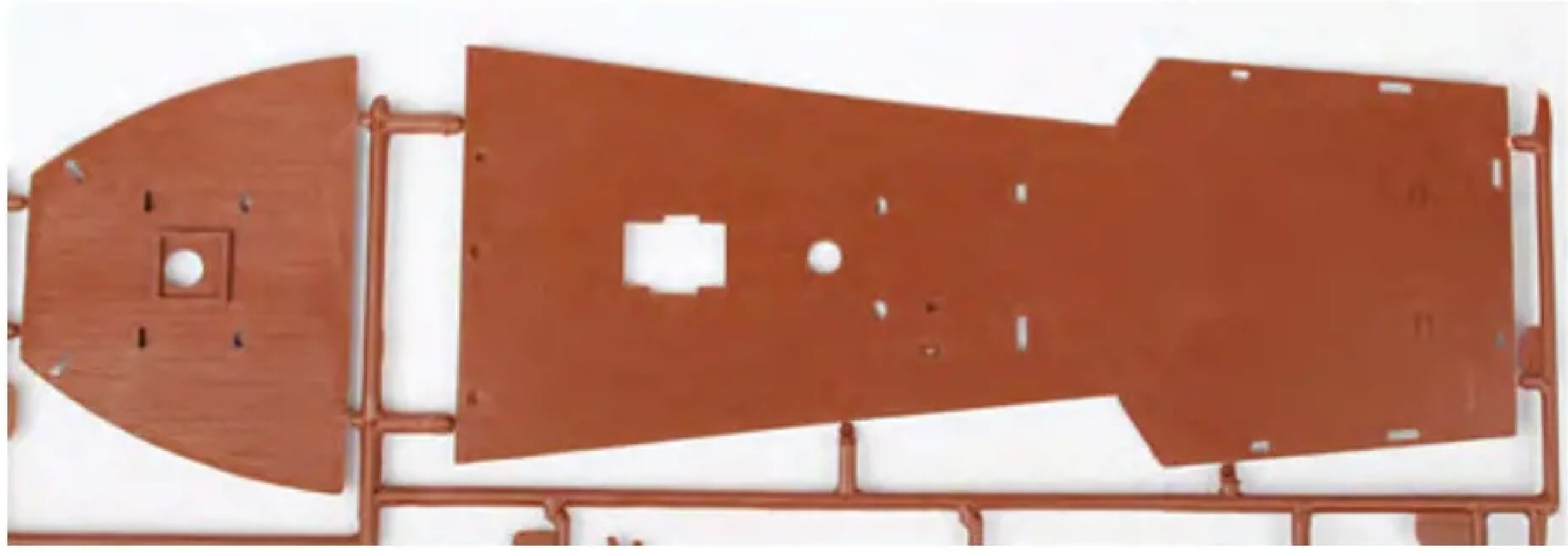
Just a main deck is provided, the lower gun deck is hidden behind closed gunports, along with the upper planking for the forecastle and quarterdeck. All wooden structures feature moulded grain, although this isn't too prominent, being just sufficient to hold a wash. A full complement of 20 deck guns is included, with Revell providing thread for the breeching and tackle ropes. A similar approach is adopted for the masts – while the shrouds are styrene, all standing and running rigging uses various thicknesses and colours of thread.

▲ **Revell has retained the use of vac-form styrene for the unfurled sails. While these will be tricky to cut out, they give a convincing appearance, especially if given a linen-toned patina.**

Clear guidance is provided on painting the colourful stern and many fittings, while the sail liveries are supplied in decal form, with the Holy Roman Empire's double-headed insignia being the most striking element. However, a comparison with known Spanish heraldry shows this to be inaccurate, for some reason omitting the top halves of each upper quarter on the shield, while the blazons (items denoting ancestry, territory or royal status) are rendered poorly, especially the castles, fleur-de-lys and double-headed eagles. Mast pennants come as printed paper items, which must be folded and wrapped around the masts; heraldic shields are also included for attaching to the quarterdeck and beakhead gunwales. One aspect is for certain – with more than 200 individual deadeyes for the rigging, you'll be a dab hand at tying knots in thread by the end of this build!



▲ **The main hull is split vertically, with the seam along the keel line. Planking is of the correct carvel style (butted timbers with caulking along the seams), while just the upper deck is included – the main gun deck has the gunports moulded closed.**



▲ **The forecastle (left) and quarterdeck (right) decking sections are typical of this kit, with raised detail for the wood joins and grain effect, plus locating holes for various fittings and equipment.**

AIRBRUSH READY
HOBBY
PAINTS
#SMSPAINTS

SMS
THE SCALE MODELLERS SUPPLY
PREMIUM
BLACK
30ml - ACRYLIC LACQUER - GLOSS
AIRBRUSH READY HOBBY PAINTS
AUSTRALIAN MADE AND OWNED

SCAN TO FIND YOUR CLOSEST RETAILER

AVAILABLE NOW THROUGH HOBBY RETAILERS OR ONLINE AT
SCALEMODELLER.COM.AU

VETERANUS HOBBIES
01765 647 828
www.veteranus.co.uk

THE KITS YOU WANT!

Bargain buys & hard to find... You'll find plenty of choice on our Facebook auctions, easy & transparent bidding and fast despatch from our warehouse

Join us at **Veteranus Auction Group** on **Facebook**

KITS TO SELL?

The easiest way to sell your surplus & unwanted kits

What we do...
- Collect your kits free of charge*
- Sell them for you.
- Handle all payments, pack & despatch.
- Pay you promptly.

Your bit...
- Box them up and tell us when to collect.
- Straight forward single commission charge.
- No hidden extras.

Call **01765 647 828**
Email: **sales@veteranus.co.uk**
www.veteranus.co.uk
**minimum value applies*

KEY Publishing

THE DESTINATION FOR
SCALE MODELLING

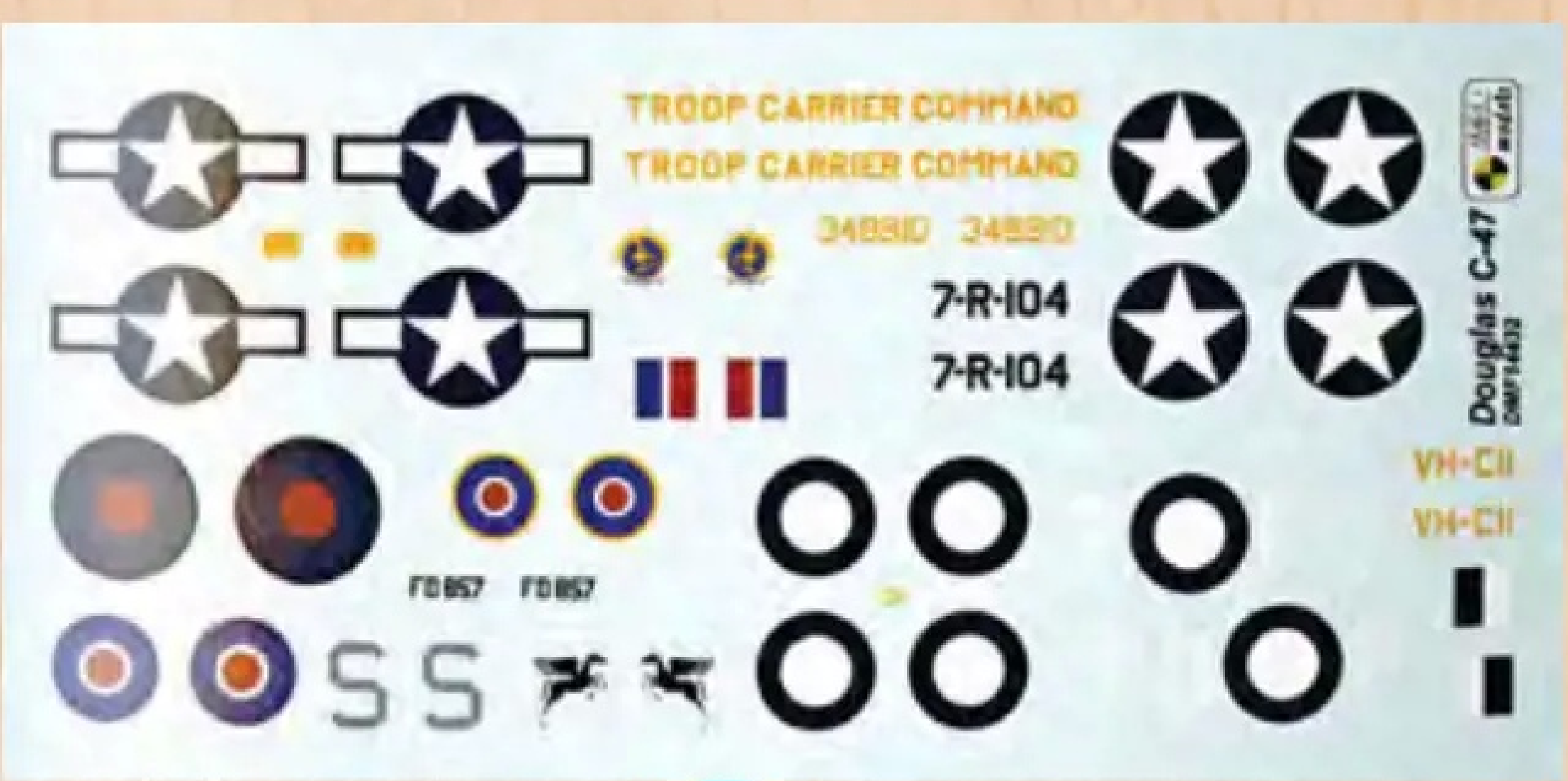
Visit us today and discover all our back issues

BACK ISSUES FROM JUST £4·90

Order from our online shop...
shop.keymodelworld.com/amwback
Call **+44 (0)1780 480404** *(Monday to Friday 9am - 5.30pm GMT)*
**Free 2nd class P&P on BFPO orders. Overseas charges apply.*

882/25

①



②

③

①

Mirage 2000 'Standard' (Versions D/N) Armée de l'Air

By: Syhart Decal **Scale:** 1/48
Item no: 48-923 **Price:** €20
Web: www.syhartdecal.fr

Having just issued a bumper helping of air-defence Mirage 2000 markings, France's Syhart Decal now obliges with the type's ground-attack 2000D/N counterparts – it's available in both 1/72 and 1/48, with the latter reviewed here. Here, the same three generic sheets available with Syhart's air-defence Mirage 2000 set are provided, but there's a new backing carrying a wealth of beautifully rendered unit décor, sharkmouths and chaff/flare ports for 56 Mirage 2000D/N liveries. While many of the airframes are in the standard dark green and dark grey (plus sky grey for the 'N'), that variant's desert tones are also represented, along with an overall medium grey 2000D of the French test unit DGA-EV. The instructions follow the same format as the other set, there being a full guide to the unit badges and corresponding codes (in relation to time periods), and full-colour decal placement/painting illustrations. And as with Syhart's other package, the bulk of schemes are afforded scrap studies of the vertical stabilisers and forward fuselages – commonly where the unit décor and codes sit respectively. Drawings revealing airframe differences are also present. In terms of 1/48 recipient kits, the 'go-to' would be Kinetic's D/N options, but older kits from Heller are also available, while modellers are comparatively spoilt in 1/72 with recent toolings from Modelsvit and Dream Model, plus Italeri's less accurate (but cheaper) offering. Decal quality is first-rate, being printed on gloss carrier film and featuring superb tonal definition.

②

C-47/R4D Skytrain/Dakota WWII Service

By: Mark I **Scale:** 1/144
Item no: DMF14432 **Price:** €10.20
Web: www.4pluspublications.com

The final set in Mark I's recent trio of decals for airliner-scale C-47/DC-3 Skytrain/Dakota kits mixes a US Army Air Force machine with examples from the US Navy, RAF and Royal Australian Air Force. It's an all-military affair here, with every operator being different… as are the camouflage schemes. All these markings are ideal for employment on 1/144 styrene kits by Academy, Minicraft and Roden, plus the vac-form Dakotas by Airwaves and Welsh Models. The quality of printing is good (thin, gloss carrier film) and the colour tones are reasonably strong, although the blue shade on the RAF fin flash and Type C/C1 roundels is possibly a tad too bright. The instructions are useful too, featuring colour four-view drawings for each airframe, plus scrap studies of propellers in their required shades. Colours are named correctly, but lack any official codes, so its well worth checking references to ensure the proper shades are used. The four choices are:

- C-47B-5-DK, 43-48910, 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, I Troop Carrier Command, USAAF, Operation Firefly, Pendleton Field, Oregon, USA, summer 1945
- R4D-1 (DC-3A-360), 7-R-104, Transport Squadron 7, Naval Air Transport Service, US Navy, NAS Miami, USA, 1943
- Dakota Mk.III (C-47A-20-DL, s/n 42-23463), FD857/S, 267 Squadron RAF, Bari Airfield, Italy, December 1944
- Dakota Mk.III (C-47A-25-DK, s/n 42-108949), VH-CII/A65-52, Royal Australian Air Force, Richmond Airfield, Australia, summer/autumn 1944

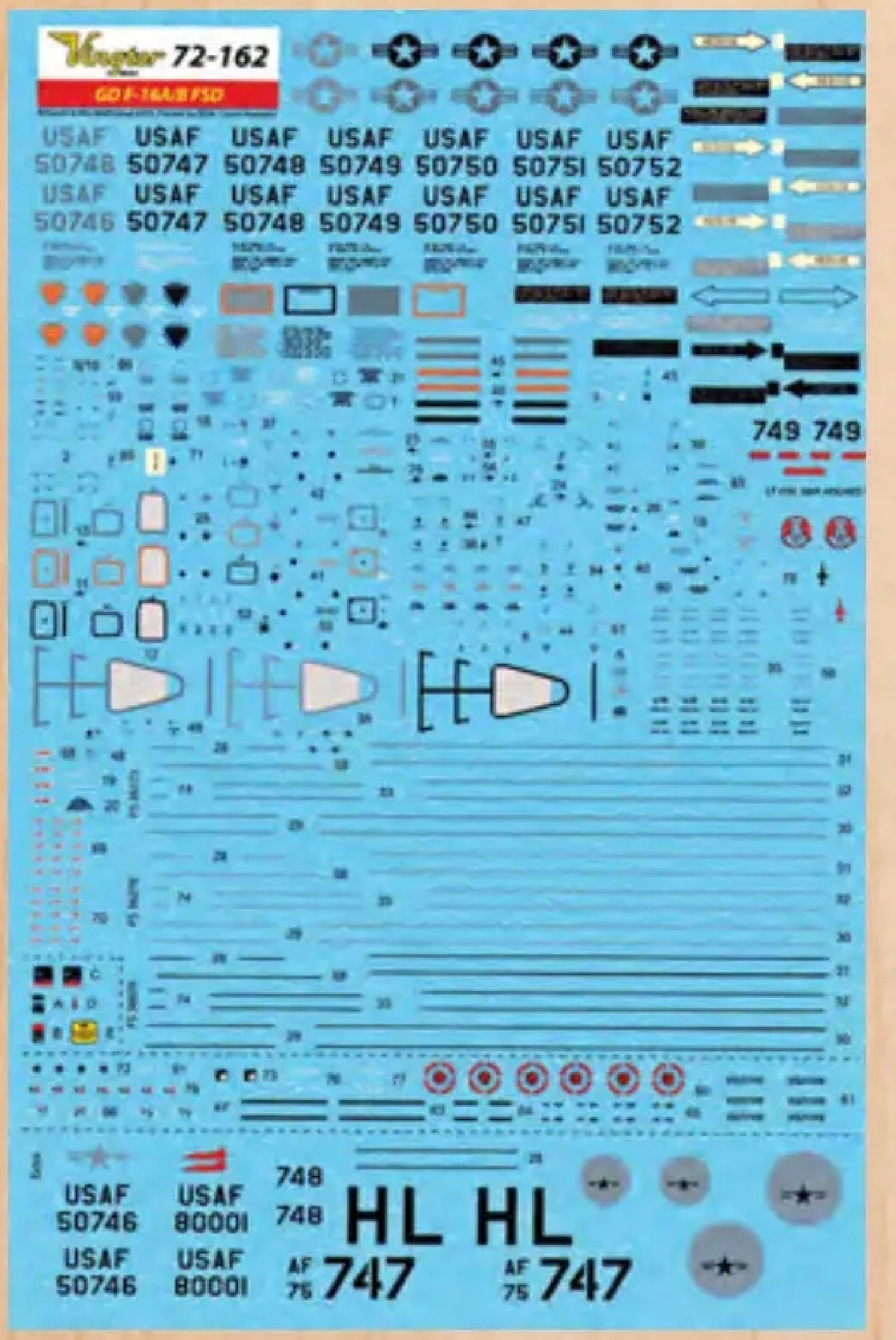
③

Spitfire Mk.I Early Part 4 – RAF 1940

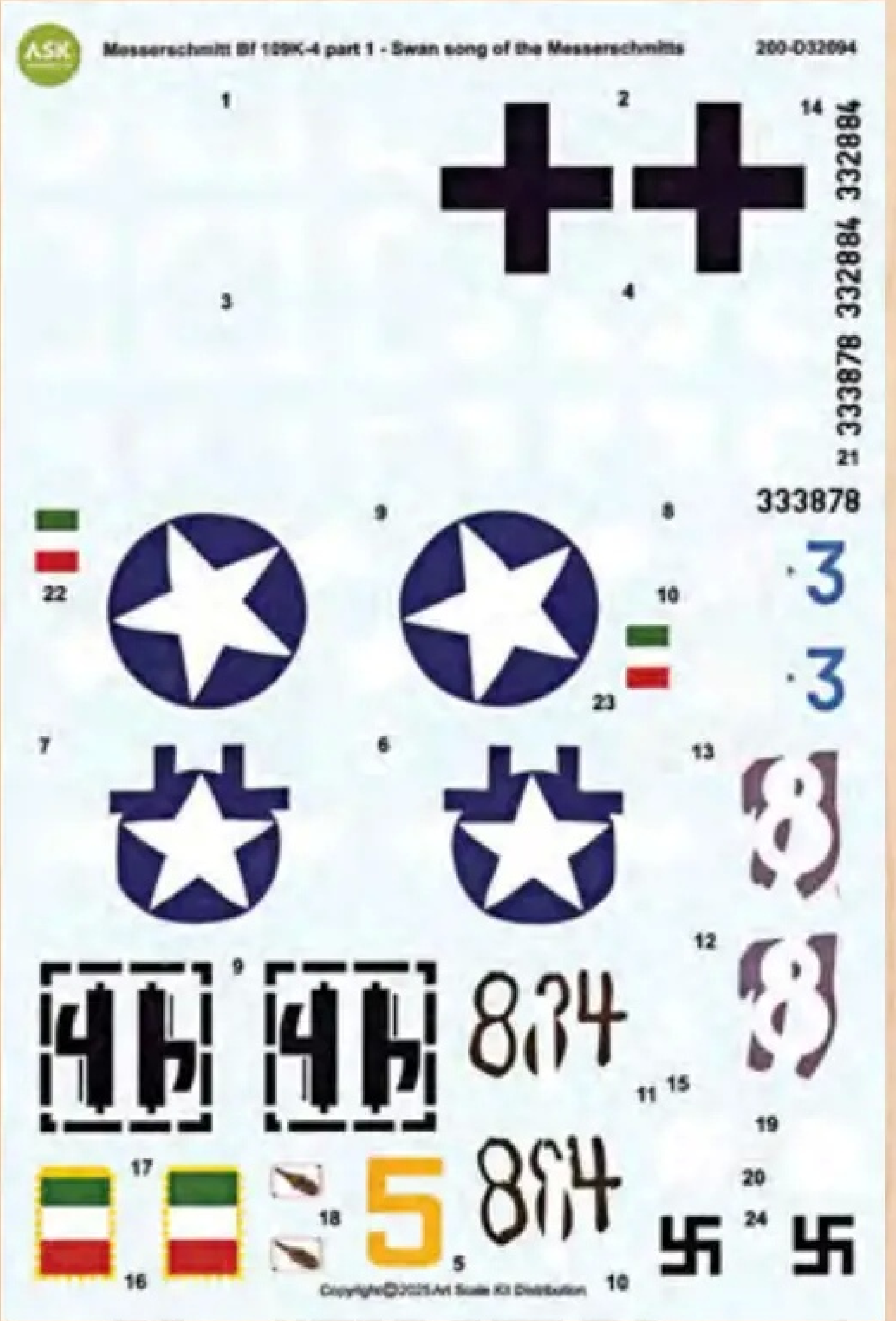
By: ASK Distribution **Scale:** 1/32
Item no: D32091 **Price:** €20.25
Web: www.artscale.eu

Spitfires are a perennially popular subject yet there aren't that many 1/32 kits of the type, with Kōtare's recent offering leading to something of a revival in terms of aftermarket decals. ASK Distribution's latest set depicting the type features three schemes, two of which are for Royal Auxiliary Air Force airframes, while the final livery is that worn by a 54 Squadron Spitfire. Again, though, the markings are standard Dark Green/Dark Earth upper surfaces, with a choice between Night black/White or Night black/white/aluminium undersides… liveries typical of that wartime period. Each aircraft receives a detailed description, confirming whether it had a two- or three-bladed propellor, flat or 'blown' canopy and armoured/standard windscreen. This will be of great use to modellers, as will the information on which noted pilots flew these particular machines – most having achieved 'ace' status by shooting down five or more German aircraft. There are two decal sheets in the set; the first has just the basic markings for the first two schemes, the final scheme is on the second sheet, along with a full set of airframe stencilling, including black and white trestle markings. Different styles of wing-mounted gas patches are supplied too, these being located on different sides, depending on the identity. The three choices are:

- PR-O, 609 (West Riding) Squadron, Drem, East Lothian, March 1940
- LO-B *BOGUS*, 601 (City of Glasgow) Squadron, Drem, East Lothian, April 1940
- K9843/DL-N, 54 Squadron, RAF Hornchurch, Essex, early 1940



④



⑤

⑥

④

GD F-16A/B FSD USAF/EPAF – Joint Test Force

By: Vingtor Decals **Scale:** 1/72
Item no: 72-162 **Price:** £9.17
Web: www.vingtor.net

If you're an F-16 fan and want to portray airframes from the beginning of the type's career, Vingtor's new decals will help, being available in 1/72 and 1/48 sizes, with the former described here. They offer décor for seven pre-production Full Scale Development airframes. As these were employed on test work in the US and Norway, some feature longer, multi-purpose pitots, while one is fitted with a parabrake housing. In 1/72 scale, the decals are sized for Hasegawa's 1980s F-16 kits, as they are close to the correct structural format, but you could also employ F-16s from ESCI and post-2000 kits from Revell. Note, apart from ESCI's kit, all will need the original, smaller horizontal stabilisers. These F-16s are notable for their paint schemes, whereby four are in overall FS 36270, while the demarcation of grey hues on others is different to more modern iterations. As a bonus on the 1/72 sheet, there are also alternative markings for 75-0746, serials for 75-0748, 78-0001 (first production F-16), plus larger black serials and HL tail codes for 75-0747. The choices are:

- F-16A FSD, A2, 75-0746, European Test & Evaluation, Bodø, Norway, 1979
- F-16A FSD, A3, 750747, F-16 Joint Test Force, Edwards, California, USA, 1977
- F-16A FSD, A4, 75-048, F-16 Joint Test Force, Edwards, 1977
- F-16A FSD, A5, 75-0749, ET&E, Bodø, 1979
- F-16A FSD, A6, 75-0750, ET&E, Bodø, 1979
- F-16B FSD, B1, 75-0751, F-16 Joint Test Force, Edwards, 1977
- F-16B FSD, B2, 75-0752, ET&E, Bodø, 1979

⑤

Bf 109K-4 part 1 Swan song of the Messerschmitts

By: ASK Distribution **Scale:** 1/32
Item no: D32094 **Price:** €12.17
Web: www.artscale.eu

Whether you fancy tackling Kōtare's new 1/32 Messerschmitt Bf 109K-4 or Trumpeter's older offering, ASK's new markings might fit the bill if you don't favour the kit markings. This set looks to be the first in a series featuring late-war Bf 109Ks and represents three airframes, all wearing interesting – and varied – camouflage. However, the first option possibly mixes the décor of two separate K-4 airframes seen at Salzburg-Maxglan airfield in the spring/summer of 1945. ASK provides alternative markings for Yellow 5, which includes hand-painted US star and bar national insignia, and the firm states that it's from 3./JG 52; modellers are advised that research is advisable here.

The second airframe on the instructions is White 8 + I/884 *Gabi*, of 9./JG 3, located at Pasewalk-Franzefelde, in April 1945. Third, an Italian K-4 of the Aeronautica Nazionale Repubblicana is supplied. Airframe 3-14, flown by Lt Gallori, was on strength with 3a Squadriglia, 1° Gruppo Caccia, at Lonate Pozzolo, in March 1945.

Late-war Bf 109s are splendid subjects in terms of interesting camouflage and the three examples here are no different. White 8 is especially notable for its 'structural' pattern – incorporating bare-metal elements – on the airframe undersides.

The decals themselves are reasonably well printed, featuring thin, gloss carrier film, and while the tonal density appears good overall, that on the yellow '5' marking seems to falter slightly, so may require touch-up work.

⑥

Middle East Typhoons

By: Mark I **Scale:** 1/144
Item no: DMF14433 **Price:** €5.27
Web: www.eshop.miniwing.cz/

If you favour smaller aircraft scales, Mark I's new 1/144 decals for Eurofighter Typhoons based in warmer climes could be of interest. It would be easy to think this scale is very much in the minority, yet the number of kits and sundry items seems to be growing at a prodigious rate. If you already build in this scale and prefer fighter aircraft, you can replicate much more exotic Eurofighter Typhoons with Mark I's new sheet, which depicts early F.2 single-seat fighter variants as operated by several Middle East nations.

While two of the airframes wear standard overall Camouflage Grey paint schemes, another is in a fetching pale grey/blue-grey livery, while the Saudi display aircraft option, with its vivid overall green paint and golden yellow accents is a total stunner. As might be expected for this small scale, just the major airframe stencils – such as the Rescue panels – are provided, alongside the expected national and unit insignia, with serials either in Roman/Latin form or Arabic characters. Four airframes are provided for on this sheet, with one example each from the Saudi Arabian, Kuwaiti, Qatari and Omani air arms, the choices being as follows::

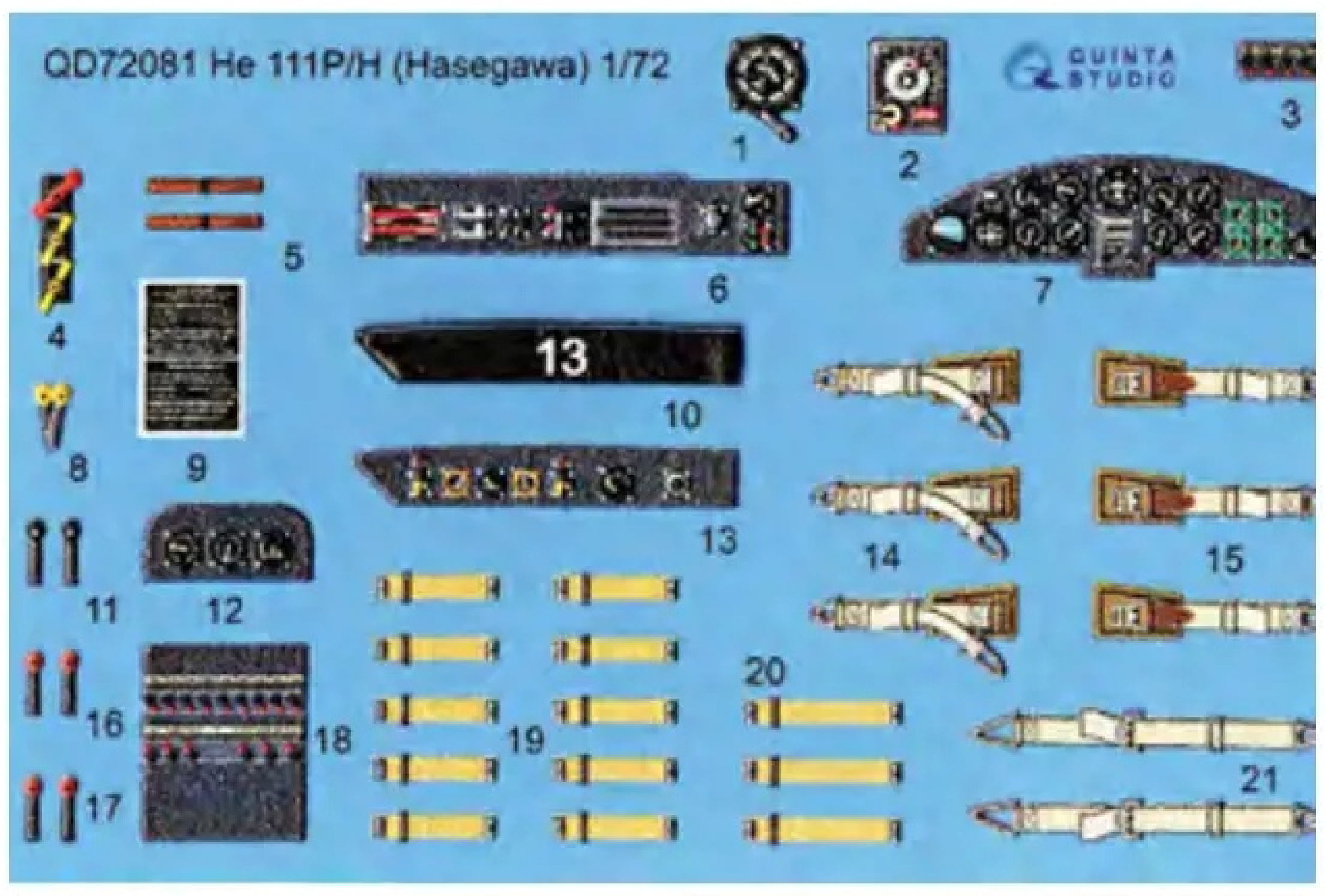
F.2, 8004, 2 Wing Royal Saudi Air Force, King Fahad Air Base, Saudi Arabia, 2023
F.2, KAF911, 7 Squadron, Kuwait Air Force, Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait, 2023
F.2, QA404, 7 Squadron 'Al Thariyat' (Moving Wind), 1 Flying Wing, Qatar Emiri Air Force, Dukhan/Tamim Air Base, Qatar, 2022
F.2, 216, 8 Squadron, Royal Air Force of Oman, Adam Air Base, Oman, 2018

200-A32012
ASK
1/32 Turnbuckles 50 pc. half and half 7,5mm 1,1mm / 7,0mm 1,0mm
www.artscale.eu

Turnbuckles 7,5mm - 1,1mm / 7,0mm - 1,0mm

By: ASK Distribution **Scale:** 1/32
Item no: A32012 **Price:** €10.12
Web: www.artscale.eu

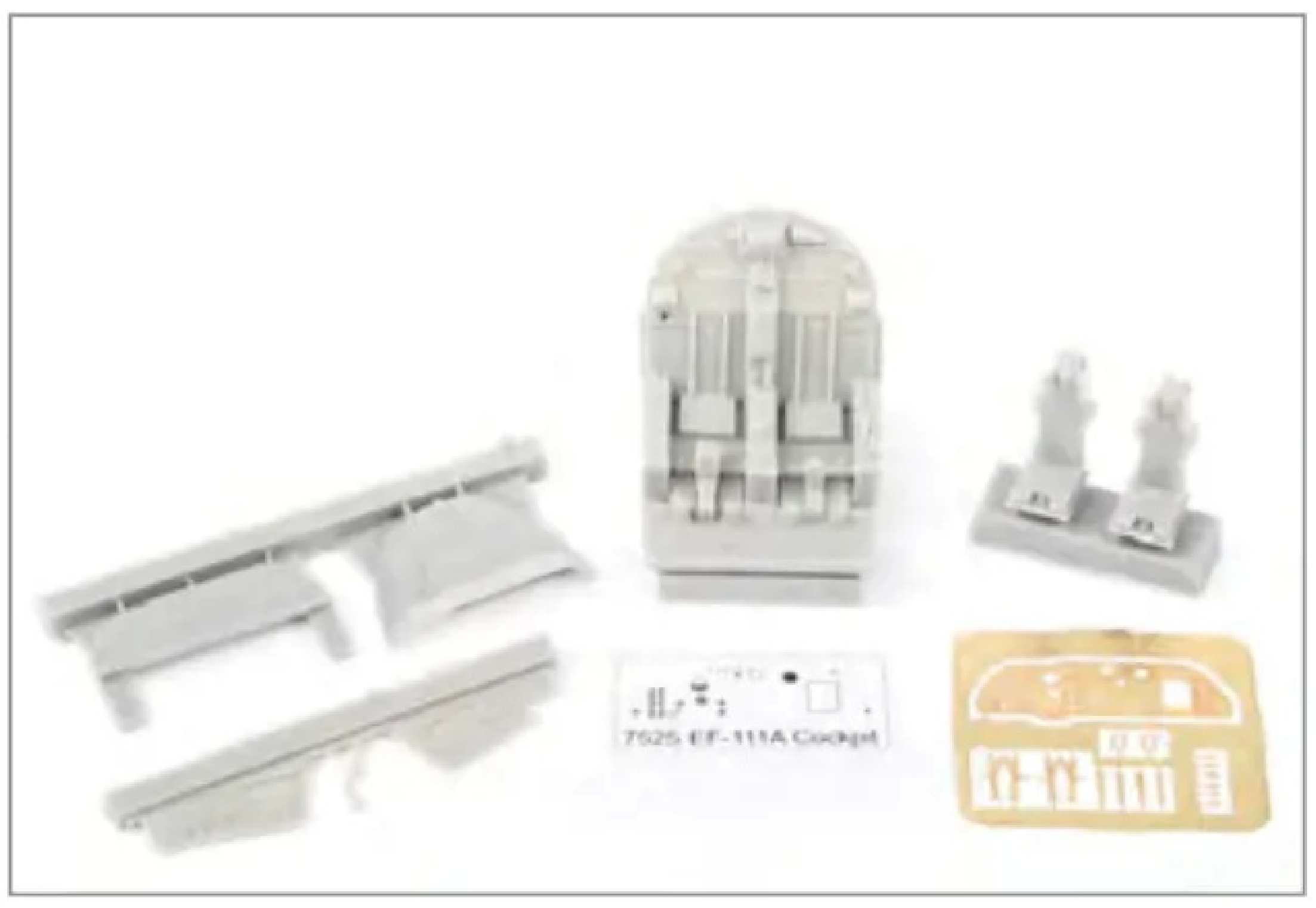
Aircraft rigging is always made easier with proper turnbuckles and ASK has issued these in different scales and sizes. This 3D-printed resin set supplies 50 double-ended examples in two sizes (meaning there are up to 100 in total, depending on whether you're portraying a single- or double hoop turnbuckle), with 25 of each: the larger items are 7.5mm long, with a 1.1mm (outside diameter) eyelet; the smaller versions are 7mm long and have a 1mm oval-shaped eyelet. Minimal preparation is needed once the turnbuckles have been separated from their printing plinth, and the thin mid-section will facilitate cutting them in half if required.



He 111P/H

By: Quinta Studios **Scale:** 1/72
Item no: QD72081 **Price:** approx. £12
Web: https://wildcatsmodels.com/en/

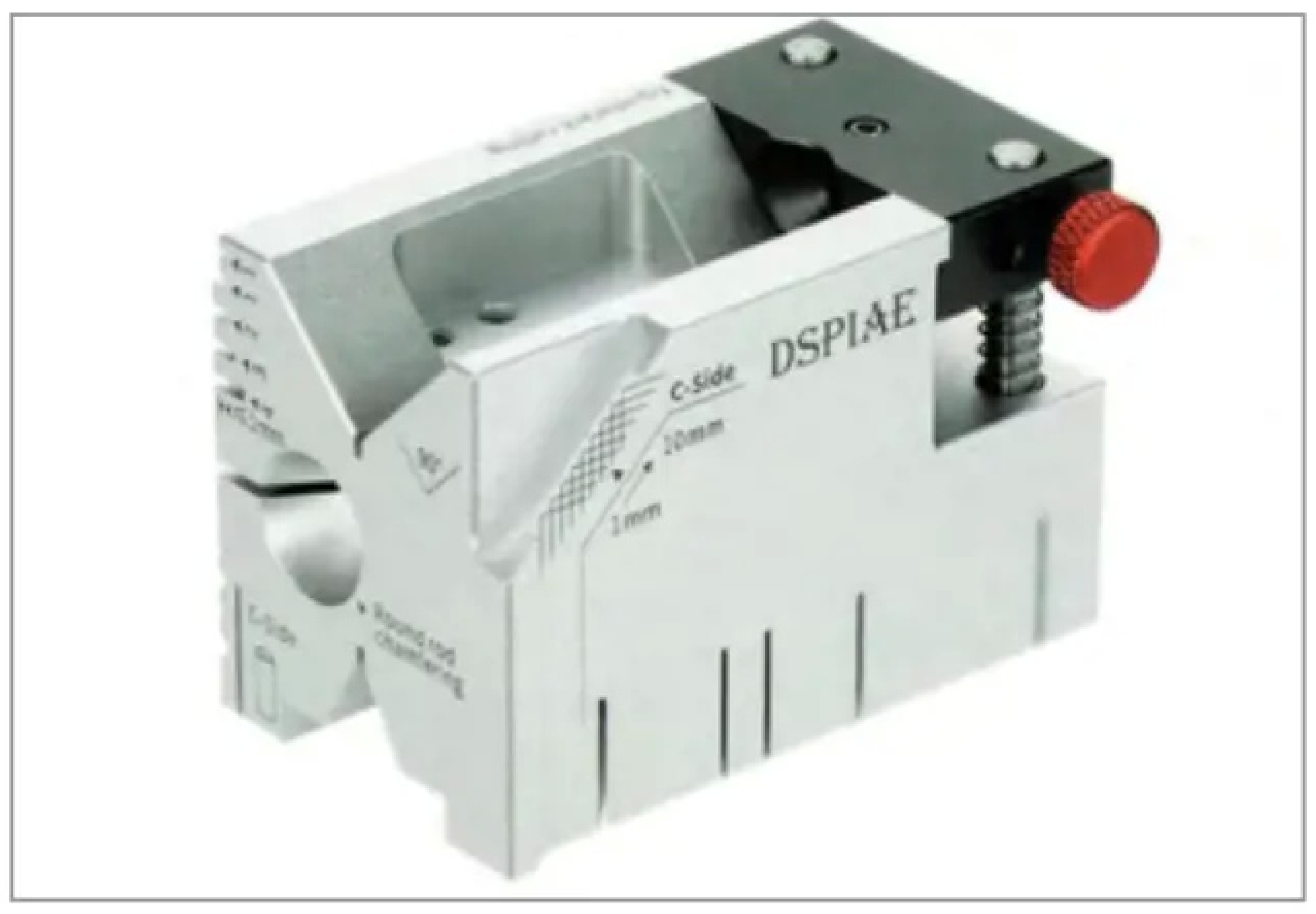
Hasegawa's 1/72 Heinkel He 111 is the intended recipient of these 3D-printed decals, which include the main instrument panel, as well as fascia for electrical boxes, side consoles, fuseboxes, rudder pedal straps, seatbelts and other features. Although there is a 'grainy' texture when viewed under magnification, these should look convincing through the kit's glazing. Note, though, that the panels are coloured RLM 66, so would not be appropriate for an early war airframe (which had RLM 02 interiors). Seatbelts comprise a mix of shoulder and lap straps, while instrument panel levers are also supplied, although it's uncertain whether the coloured ends are repeated on the reverse side.



EF-111A Raven Cockpit

By: CMK **Scale:** 1/72
Item no: 7525 **Price:** €16.20
Web: www.cmkkits.com

With Italeri reissuing its 1/72 Grumman EF-111A Raven – originally an ESCI tooling – CMK has released an upgrade set that will transform the cockpit. It's a resin/photo-etched (PE) metal combo, with a printed acetate film for the dial detail. The main piece is the combined floor, bulkhead and console arrangement, which offers much more detail than the kit. Side and centre consoles have delicate raised switches, while there's a replacement control column for the pilot, rudder pedals and a between-the-legs switch box for the electronic warfare officer (starboard). The seats are cast separately, and while well detailed, do look slightly too small.



Multi-Purpose Processing Assistance Platform

By: Dspiae's **Scale:** N/A
Item no: N/A **Price:** £44.95
Web: www.tyrellmodels.co.uk

Appearing as something between a scratch-builder's multi-tool and a Swiss Army knife, Dspiae's Multi-Purpose Processing Assistance Platform is machined (CNC) from aluminium alloy stock and lets you perform a multitude of jobs. You can drill perfectly positioned holes in the side of plastic rod, add bevels to edges, cut neat 135° corners on plastic card, glue together sections of card at 45° and 90° angles and even add 60° chamfers. There are 30°/45°/60°/75° mitre slots so you can cut different angles in lengths of plastic stock/sheet accurately, while four 1mm-wide slots let you cut styrene strips of consistent width.

Mk.84 bombs with BSU-36/B

By: ResKit **Scale:** 1/48
Item no: RS48-0524 **Price:** $10
Web: https://reskit-models.com

This 3D-printed set enables you to build a pair of Mk.84 2,000lb bombs fitted with the BSU-36/B conical tail section with fins. Each bomb comprises two pieces for the main body, with the tail section being separate; they are joined by a selection of nose adornments, with a choice of an M904 fuze, bomb nose plug, Mk.43 Target Detecting Device, ogive nose plug, MXU-735 solid nose plug or DSU-33/B Radar Proximity Sensor. Also supplied are 'windmill' tail fuzes and a small decal sheet carrying stencils and yellow nosebands. These are suitable for F-15Es, F-16s and F-111Fs, plus land-based AV-8Bs and F/A-18s, but you'll need RS48-0525 for carrier-based aircraft.

60/100
240/400
600/1000

Sand File Set

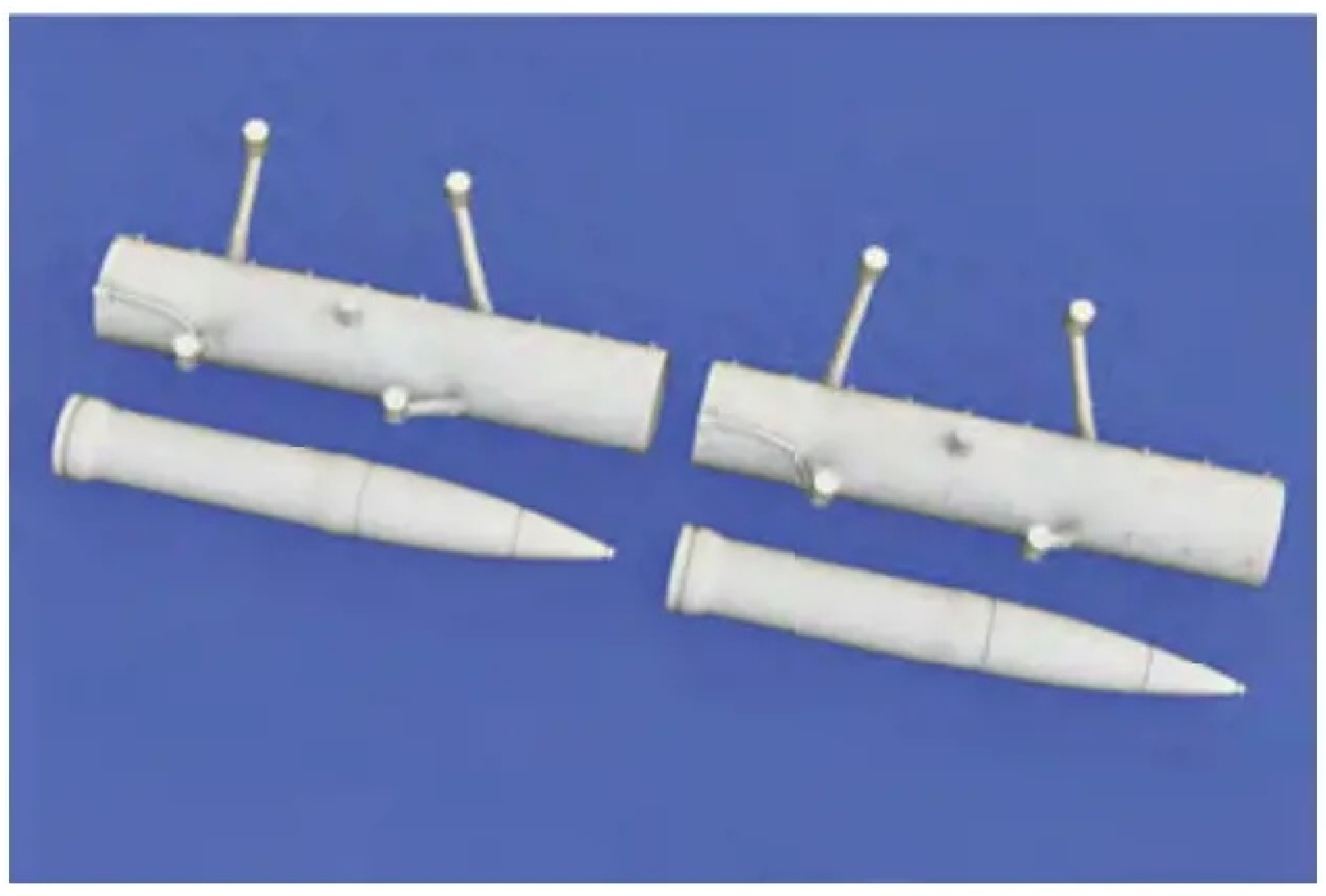
By: Heller **Scale:** N/A
Item no: 99002 **Price:** €4.99
Web: www.heller.fr

Heller's 'sand files' – otherwise known to modellers as sanding sticks – are double sided, with differently graded abrasive surfaces. The grades are handily printed on the foam sides and, if viewed with the numbers the right way up, the coarser surface is always to the top. Each stick is 90mm long and 20mm wide, making these ideal for wide area sanding, but their size (and approximately 7mm thickness) means they won't be suitable for narrower confines. The paired grades are as follows: Coarse (60/100), Medium (240/400) and Fine (600/1000), so you'll be able to tackle anything from initial rough shaping of an item through to polishing tasks.

BLG-66 Belouga Cluster Bombs

By: ResKit **Scale:** 1/48
Item no: RS48-0048 **Price:** $10.64
Web: reskit-models.com

ResKit's recent weapons sets haven't covered just British and US subjects, as several French munitions, such as the BLG-66 Belouga cluster bombs, have also been released by the firm. These were a weapon for French Air Force Mirage F1s/2000s, Super Étendards and Jaguar As, along with export customers. ResKit's items feature beautifully rendered circular bomblet port covers all around the main casing, delicate rear fins and nose fuzes. Optional protective covers are supplied, too, plus there are decals for the yellow explosive-content nose bands and two small stencils. For modellers preferring 1/72 or 1/32 subjects, this set is also available as RS72-0048 and RS32-0048, respectively.



WGr.21 for Bf 109G

By: Eduard **Scale:** 1/72
Item no: 672349 **Price:** £4.42
Web: eduard.com

Intended to complement Eduard's own Bf 109G kits (although they should be easy to modify for other offerings of this German fighter), this set provides enough parts for two 21cm air launched rockets, with fittings suited to the Messerschmitt fighter (different products cater for versions carried by Fw 190, Bf 110, Me 210/410 and Me 262). Each unit comprises a tube-type launcher, a separate rocket projectile plus photo-etched brass electrical connection (located between the launcher and aircraft) and firing arm. Assembly is straightforward and both loaded/empty configurations can be built. Eduard also provides guidance on where to drill locating holes on the Bf 109's wing.

4497
1/48
CMK
Lysander Mk.II
Conversion set
Set contains 3D printed parts and decals for four scheme options (RAF and RCAF)

Lysander Mk.II Conversion

By: CMK **Scale:** 1/48
Item no: 4497 **Price:** €31.90
Web: cmkkits.com

This comprehensive upgrade set allows you to convert the Airfix Lysander Mk.I/III into the Bristol Perseus-powered Mk.II variant. All parts are supplied in 3D-printed resin, providing a replacement engine and cowling, with separate side panels to allow the aircraft to be depicted in a maintenance scene. Modellers can choose between open/closed cooling gills, and guidance is included on how to align the parts correctly, notably the exhaust, while delicate tripod mounts are supplied between the reduction gear housing and cowling. Two decal sheets provide markings for four airframes (three RAF and one RCAF), all wearing standard Dark Earth/Dark Green camouflage.

M10 Tank Destroyer 3in/76.2mm M7 Gun Barrel

By: Master Model **Scale:** 1/35
Item no: GM-35-052 **Price:** £8.40
Web: master-model.pl

If you're looking for a quick and straightforward improvement for your Academy M10 tank destroyer, this superb turned metal barrel is well worth considering. Thanks to the well-designed locating 'plug', this is a drop-in replacement, with the advantage that there's no longitudinal seam to fill/sand, and the barrel muzzle is hollow, with rifling clearly visible on the inner surfaces. For those with Tamiya M10s, GM-35-053 is the equivalent replacement, while Master also produces 17-pdr barrels for the British Achilles variants (either by Academy or Tamiya).

2
3
1
B
KELIK
K72169 UH-34J SEA HORSE
5
A
A
B

UH-34J Sea Horse Interior 3D Decals

By: Kelik **Scale:** 1/72
Item no: K72169 **Price:** $9
Web: reskit-models.com

When Italeri's UH-34 Sea Horse first emerged in 1996, it was a quantum leap over alternative kits, especially when it came to the cockpit detail. However, the hobby has moved on since then, and now it can appear rather 'tame' – thankfully, Ukrainian firm Kelik has stepped forward with a smart new set of 3D-printed decals to enliven the cockpit considerably. The main instrument panel, central and side consoles plus overhead switchboard all receive attention, and there are new seatbelts, too. Modellers will need to remove the moulded detail first though, with PVA adhesive recommended for securing the 3D decals.

Marston Mat
WWII US Landing Mat
1:48
48411
ICM

Marston Mat WW US Landing Mat

By: ICM **Scale:** 1/48
Item no: 48411 **Price:** £15.50
Web: hobbyco.net

Arguably, ICM has cornered the market when it comes to styrene representations of the pierced-steel plank (PSP) landing pad, with one recent offering being a 1/48 scale set depicting became known as Marston Mat. Compared with the 1/32 iteration, a different approach has been adopted: instead of individual planks, there are eight identical styrene runners, each containing a block of interleaved planks (12 full-length and four half-size), two of which are joined for a strip wide enough to accommodate a medium bomber. Enough pieces are included for four 'strips' – sufficient for most 1/48 models.

EF-111A Open Electronics Boxes

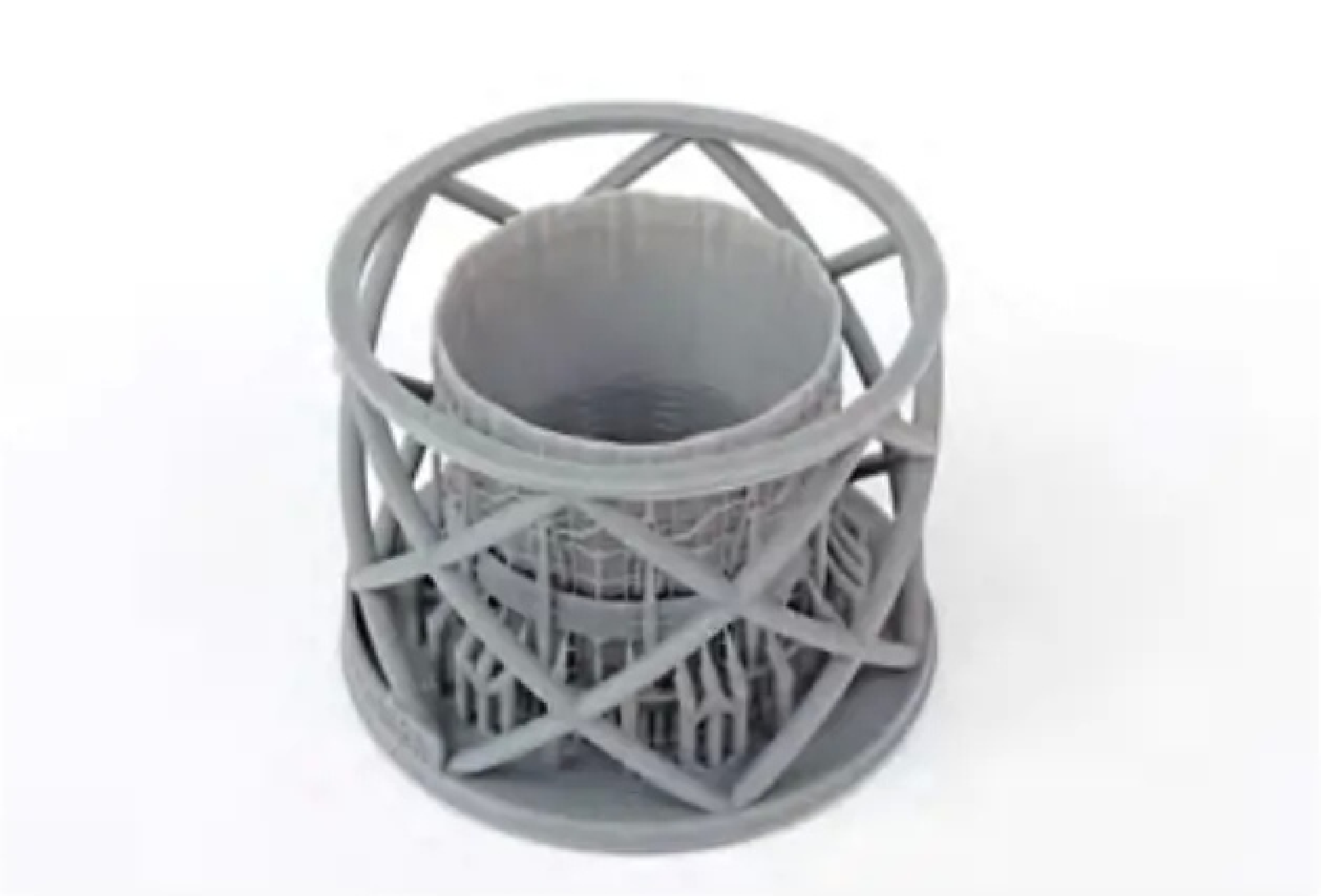
By: CMK **Scale:** 1/72
Item no: 7526 **Price:** €12
Web: www.cmkkits.com

If you're looking for more refinement than just an aftermarker cockpit (see p.107) in your Italeri EF-111, then CMK's associated avionics bay may be worth considering. It supplies an open and fully equipped electronics bay for installation in the port side of the nose. You'll need to cut along panel lines to remove the kit plastic before being able to insert the new resin bay, which accepts six separately cast electronic boxes and a replacement external panel is provided too. Also offered is a detailed bay for insertion on top of the fuselage by cutting away the requisite kit styrene. It's replete with ducting and cables and comes with a separate cover panel.

Nakajima A2N2/3

By: Yahu Models **Scale:** 1/48
Item no: YMA4909 **Price:** £4.80
Web: www.yahumodels.com

There haven't been many quarter-scale kits of the Nakajima A2N2, and even fewer accessories, which makes Yahu's one-piece drop-in instrument panel a welcome addition to what's available. It's designed for the AB&K Models kit, and comes as a pre-assembled, pre-painted laminated item. Acetate sheet is sandwiched between photo-etched (PE) metal layers to replicate the dials' glass covers. The detail is exquisite, with dials easily identifiable, from artificial horizon to altimeter and fuel gauges. This will replace the styrene kit version in 'basic' boxings, and supplants AB&K's own PE items in the others - being essentially a drop-in alternative.



B-1B Lancer Exhaust Nozzle

By: ResKit **Scale:** 1/48
Item no: RSU48-0428 **Price:** $9
Web: https://reskit-models.com

This set provides a single, highly detailed, one-piece exhaust nozzle for a late-production B-1B (so four will be needed for a model) and is designed to fit seamlessly with ResKit's intake/nacelle products (RSU-48-0423/0424/0426/0427). The plinth has a protective 'cage' surrounding the part, which will need removing before the nozzle can be separated from the printing attachment points. Detail is magnificent throughout, from the ribbed inner and outer panel sections to the finely replicated converge/diverge actuator mechanism on the exterior surfaces. The edges are also commendably thin, yet appear to be quite robust.

P-51D 165gal fuel tanks

By: Eduard **Scale:** 1/72
Item no: 672376 **Price:** £6.59
Web: www.eduard.com

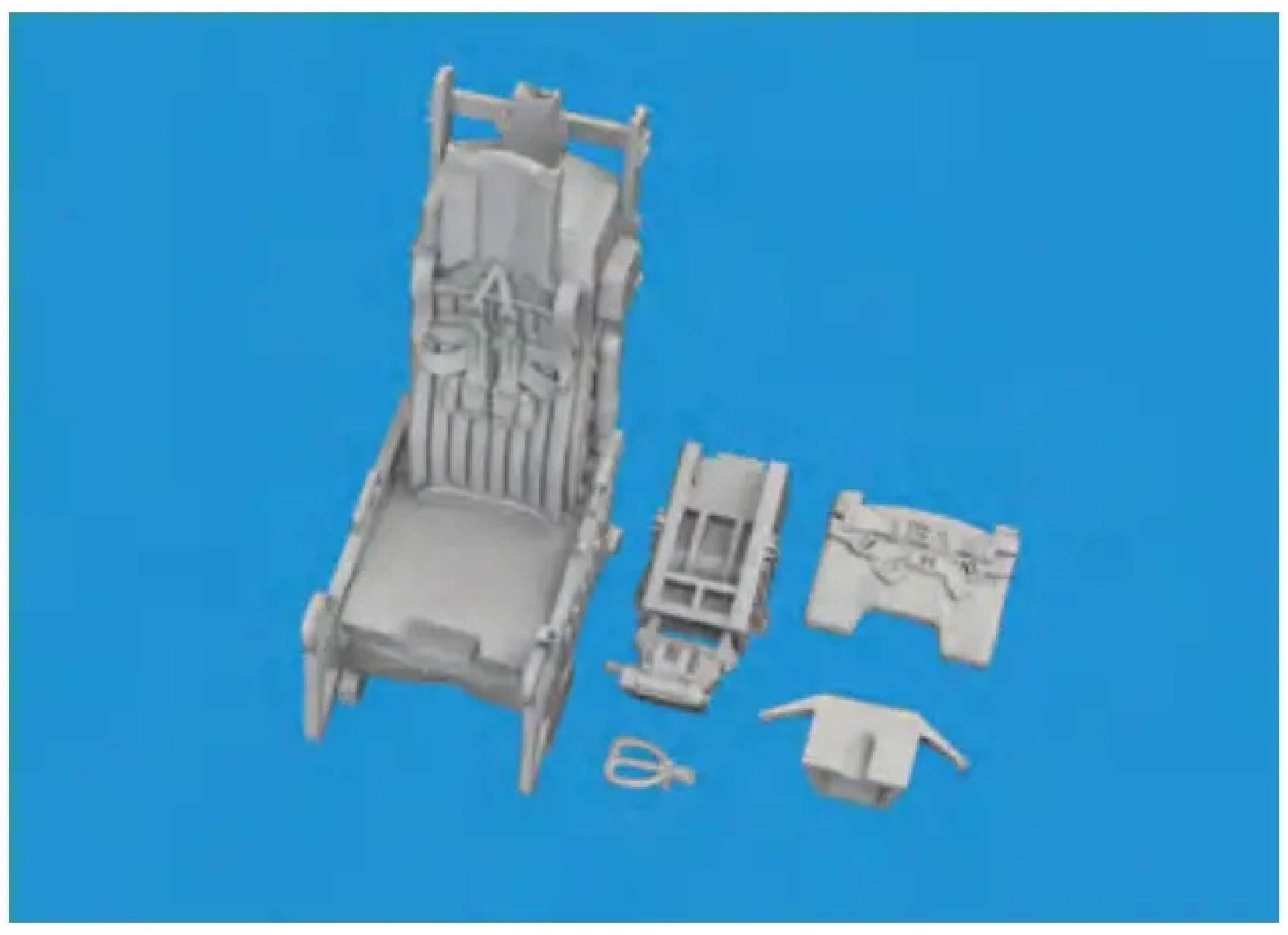
If you thought Eduard had impressed with the 165 gal fuel tanks in its recently tooled 1/72 P-51D Mustang kit, then prepare to be pleasantly surprised with this stunning 3D-printed resin alternative. There are sufficient parts for two tanks, with each split vertically – the sway boards on either side of the pylon attachment are wafer-thin items – and the welded seam is commendably fine. Preparation looks to be minimal, and once separated from the printing plinths, the halves are simply joined with superglue. Stencils and labels for the fuel caps are supplied on a decal sheet, and guidance is given for the fuel line (which needs scratch-building).

GARAGE WORKSHOP SET 2
35668
MiniArt
SCALE 1:35
BUILDINGS & ACCESSORIES SERIES

Garage Workshop Set 2

By: MiniArt **Scale:** 1/35
Item no: 35668 **Price:** £23.99
Web: www.creativemodels.co.uk

It's been six years since MiniArt's first garage accessories set (35596), and this second version takes it to a whole new level. There are 14 styrene runners, of which four are shared with the original set, and those providing parts for the barrels come from the firm's Fuel & Oil Drums 1930-50s pack (35613). There are cabinets, drawer units, locker and toolboxes, along with various tools (axe, blowtorch, saw, files, screwdrivers, wood planes, vices, and an air compressor), joined by what appears to be an oxy-acetylene set. A photo-etched brass fret supplies blades, plus box doors and hinges, while there's even an anvil... ideal for any cartoon scenes too!



A-10C Ejection Seat

By: Eduard **Scale:** 1/48
Item no: 6481035 **Price:** £6.61
Web: www.eduard.com

Modellers wanting to improve the cockpit in their GWH 1/48 A-10C would do well to consider this excellent 3D-printed resin ejection seat from Eduard. Compared to earlier offerings (such as for the Academy kit), there's a lower parts count as the seatbelts are integral to the rear seat pad and separate lower cushion, so there's no photo-etched metal items to shape/bend. That said, there's been no skimping on the detail, and the ACES II seat is replicated faithfully, from the separate 'chute cover with integral attitude sensors to the neat inclusion of the canopy raising mechanism – note, this is configured just for an open canopy, but is much finer than the kit's styrene version.

SMW SCALE MODELWORLD 2025

DISCOVER THE WORLD OF SCALE MODELLING

8-9
NOVEMBER 2025

TELFORD
INTERNATIONAL
CENTRE

Scan here
for tickets

www.tictelford.com

£25
DAY TICKET*

INTERNATIONAL PLASTIC MODELLERS SOCIETY (UK)

www.ipmsuk.org

*For non IPMS (UK) members

Beemax (www.hobbyco.net)

1/24

BX13001 Suzuki RGV500 1993 World Champion Moto 500

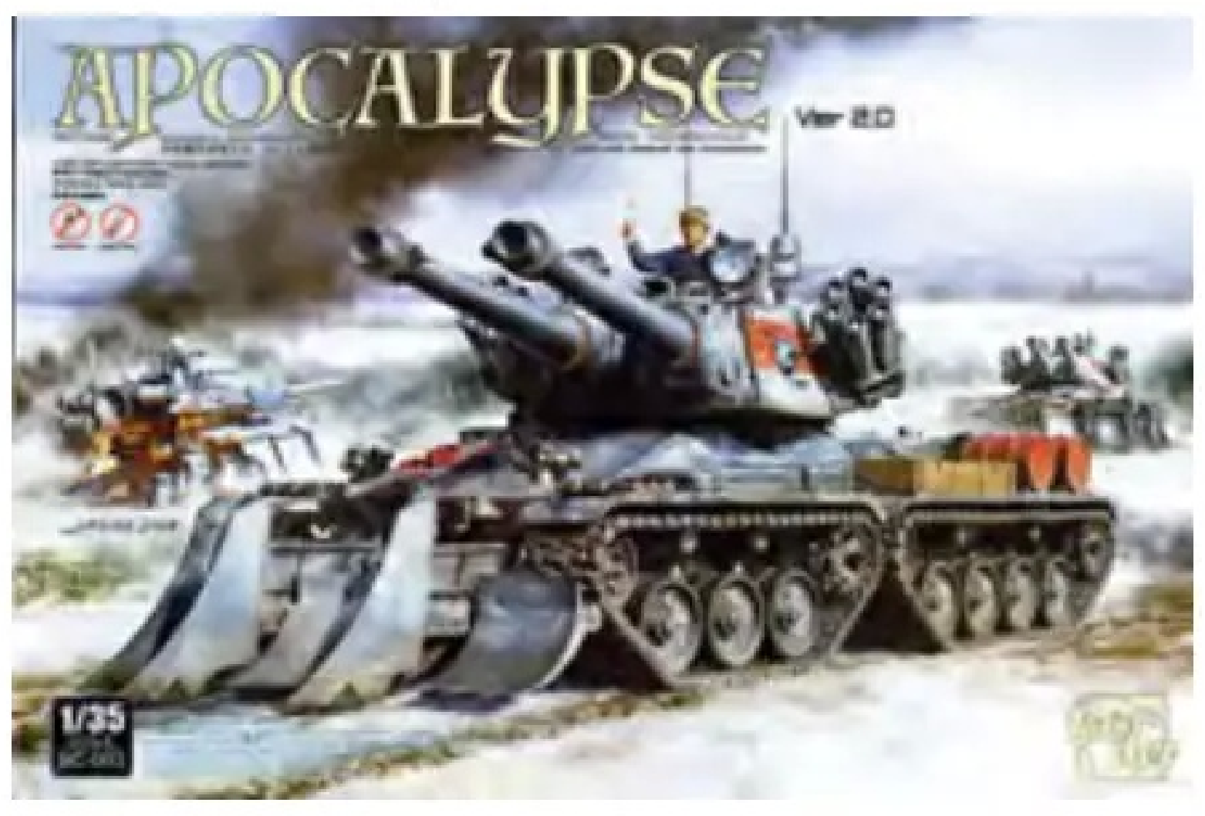
SUZUKI RGV-Γ (XR79)
34

BX24035 Audi Sport Quattro S1 (E2) 1986 Monte Carlo Rally

Border Model (www.albionhobbies.com)

1/35

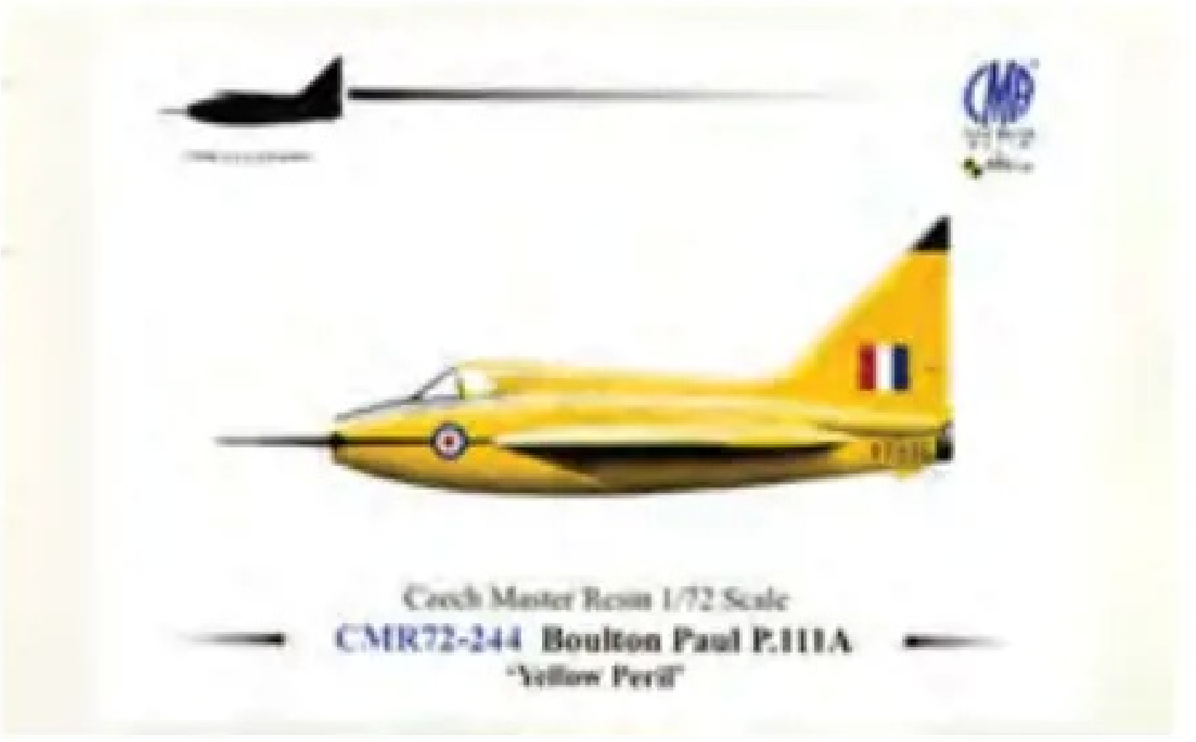
BC-003 Apocalypse Ver 2.0 Tank


APOCALYPSE
Ver 2.0
1/35

CMR (www.4pluspublicationscom)

1/72

CMR72-244 Boulton Paul P.111A 'Yellow Peril'

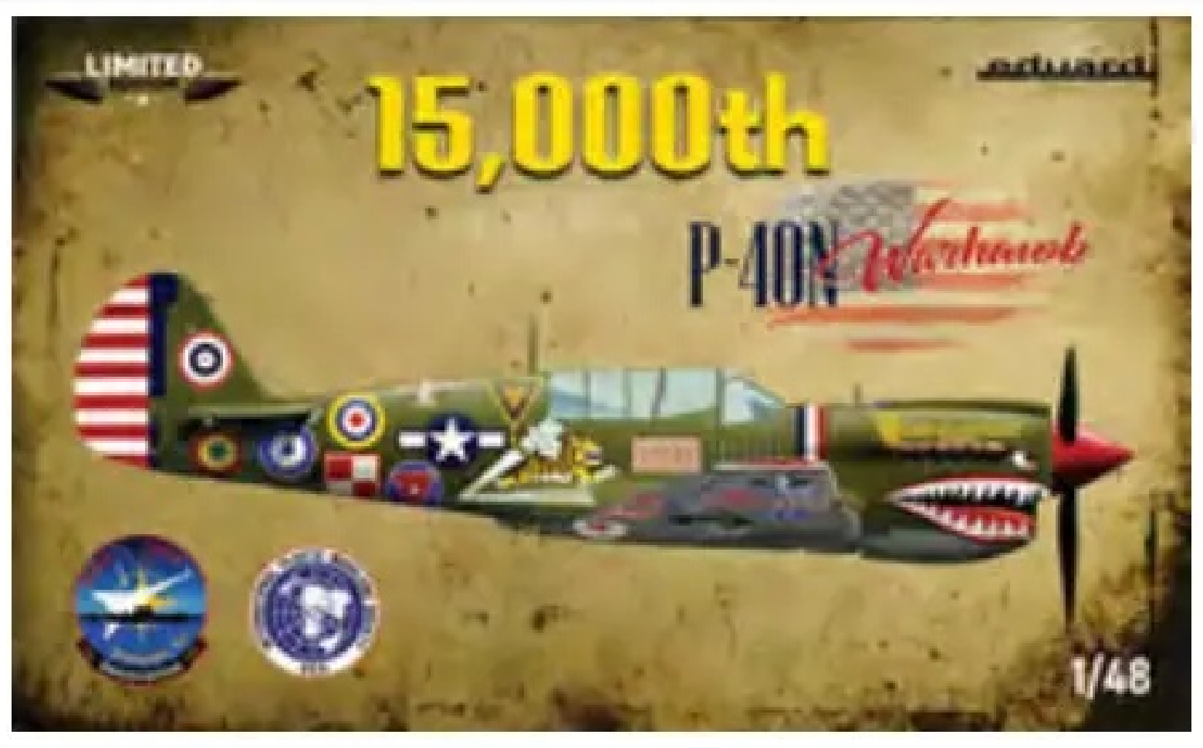

Czech Master Resin 1/72 Scale
CMR72-244 Boulton Paul P.111A
"Yellow Peril"

Eduard (www.eduard.com)

1/48

8409 Bf 110D

11193 15,000th P-40N Warhawk


LIMITED
eduard
15,000th
P-40N Warhawk
1/48

IBG Models (www.ibgmodels.com)

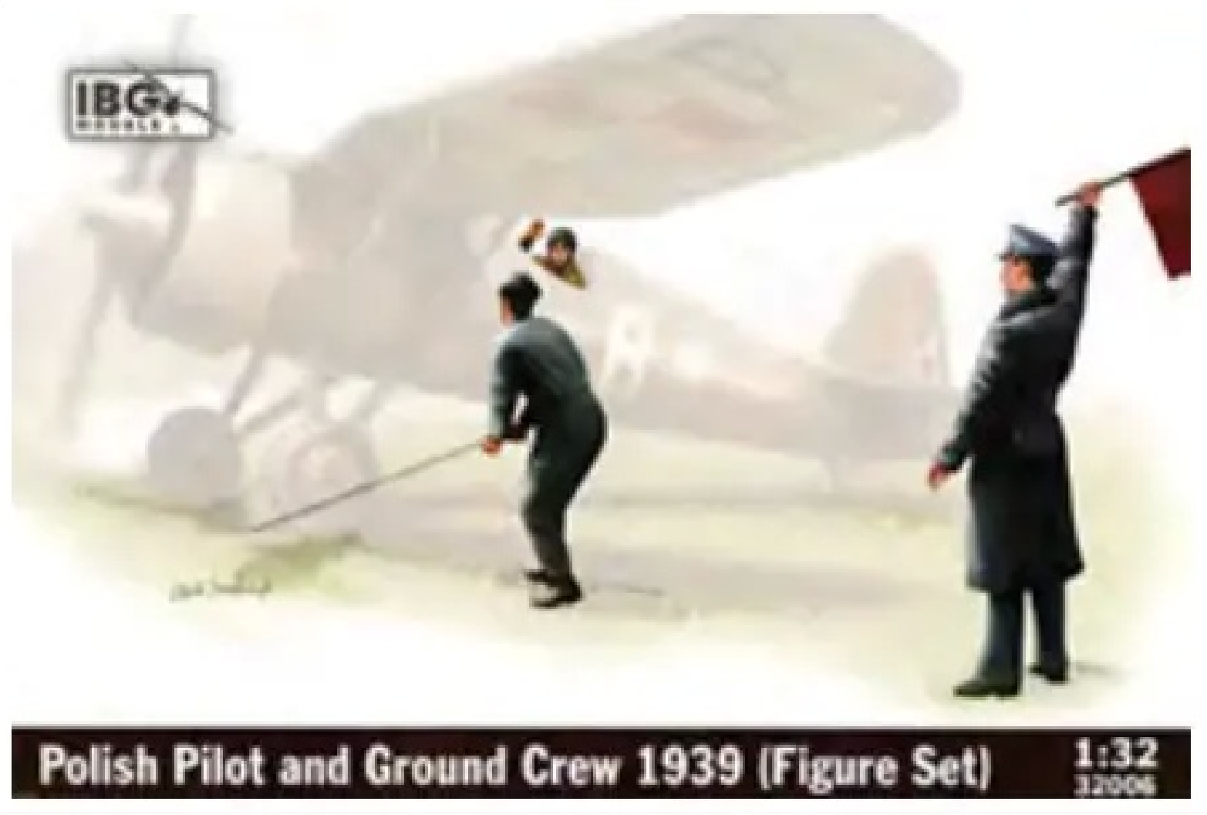
1/72

72160 Bedford MWD General Service

72584 Supermarine Spitfire Mk.I & Mk.II – Great Britain 1940

1/32

32006 Polish Pilot and Ground Crew 1939


IBG
Polish Pilot and Ground Crew 1939 (Figure Set)
1:32
32006

ICM (www.hobbyco.net)

1/72

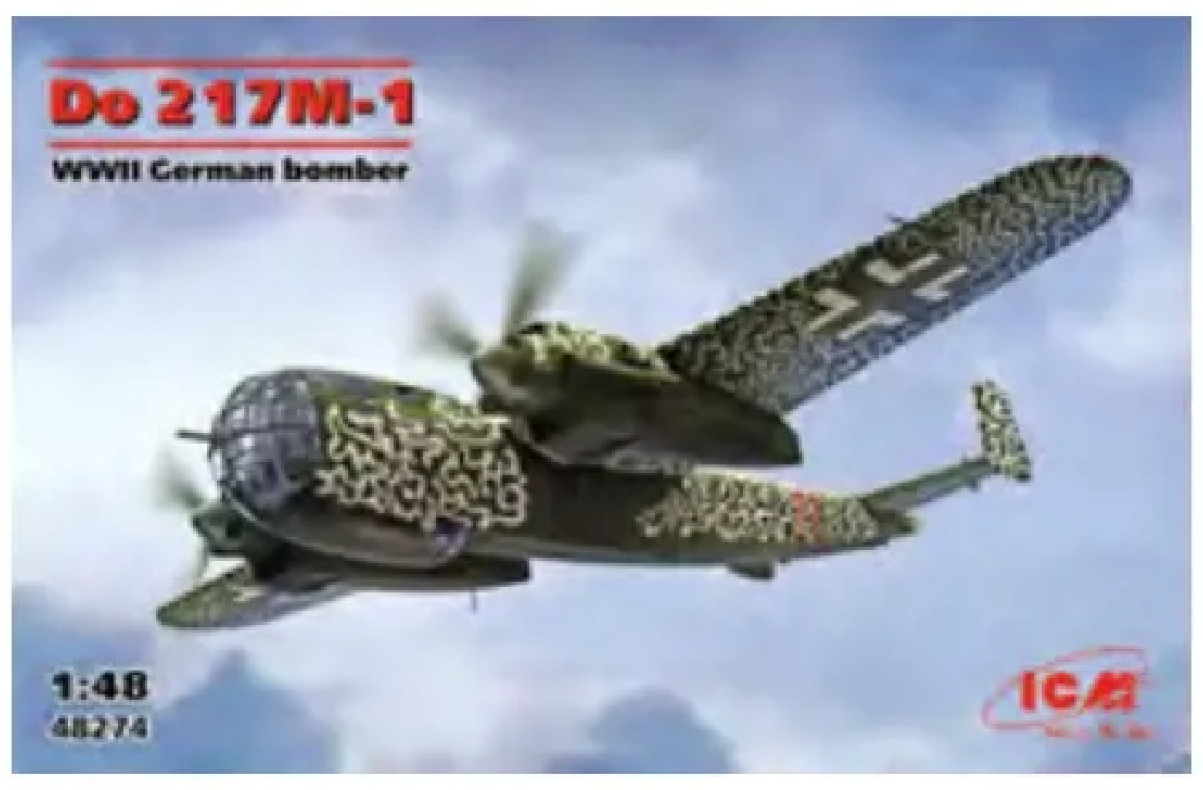
72145 F-16AM of Ukrainian Air Forces with PAG-14

72216 M8A1 US Landing Pad

72821 ZiL-131 AFU with DShKM

1/48

48274 Do 217M-1


Do 217M-1
WWII German bomber
1:48
48274
ICM

48325 B-26F Marauder

1/35

35408 G917T Truppenluftschutzenwagen

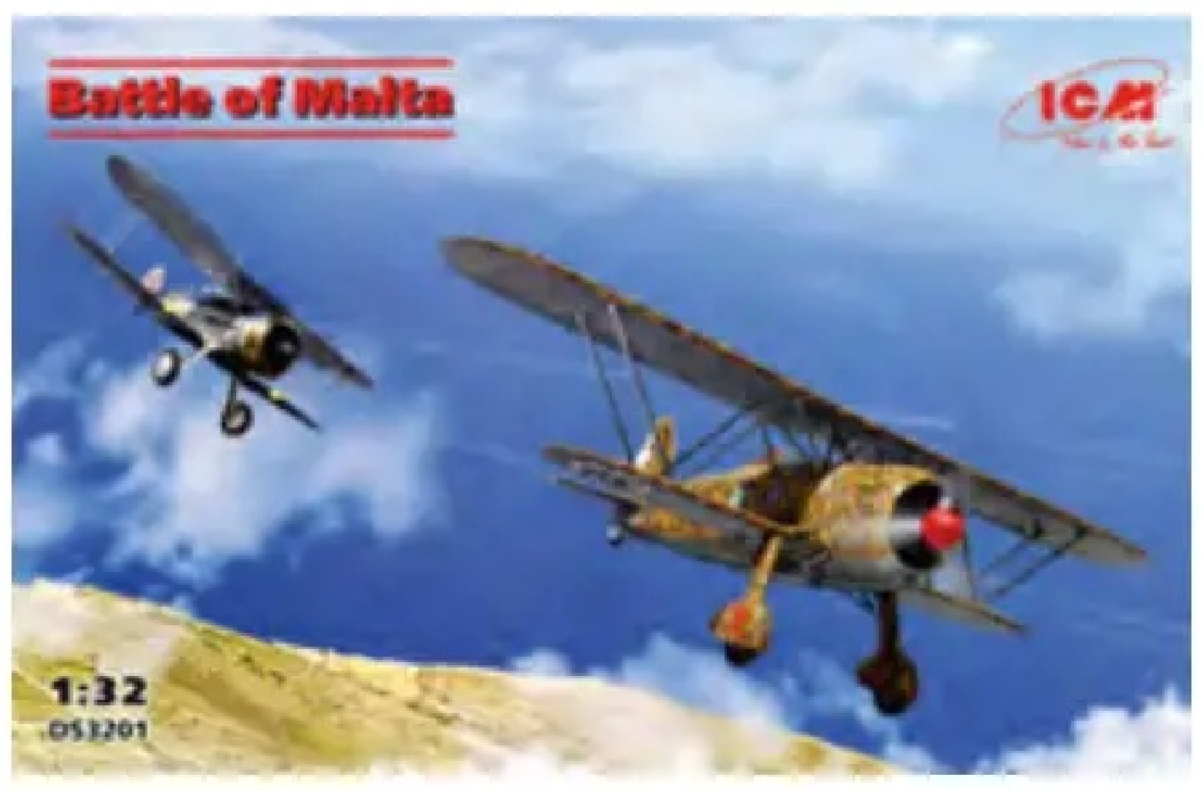
35604 Montgomery's Office with Staff

DS3528 WWII US Military Vehicles

DS3529 Vehicles of the DAK

1/32

DS3201 Battle of Malta


Battle of Malta
ICM
1:32
DS3201

1/24

24052 Ford A Gangster Car

24053 GAZ-A in German Service

Italeri (www.hobbyco.net)

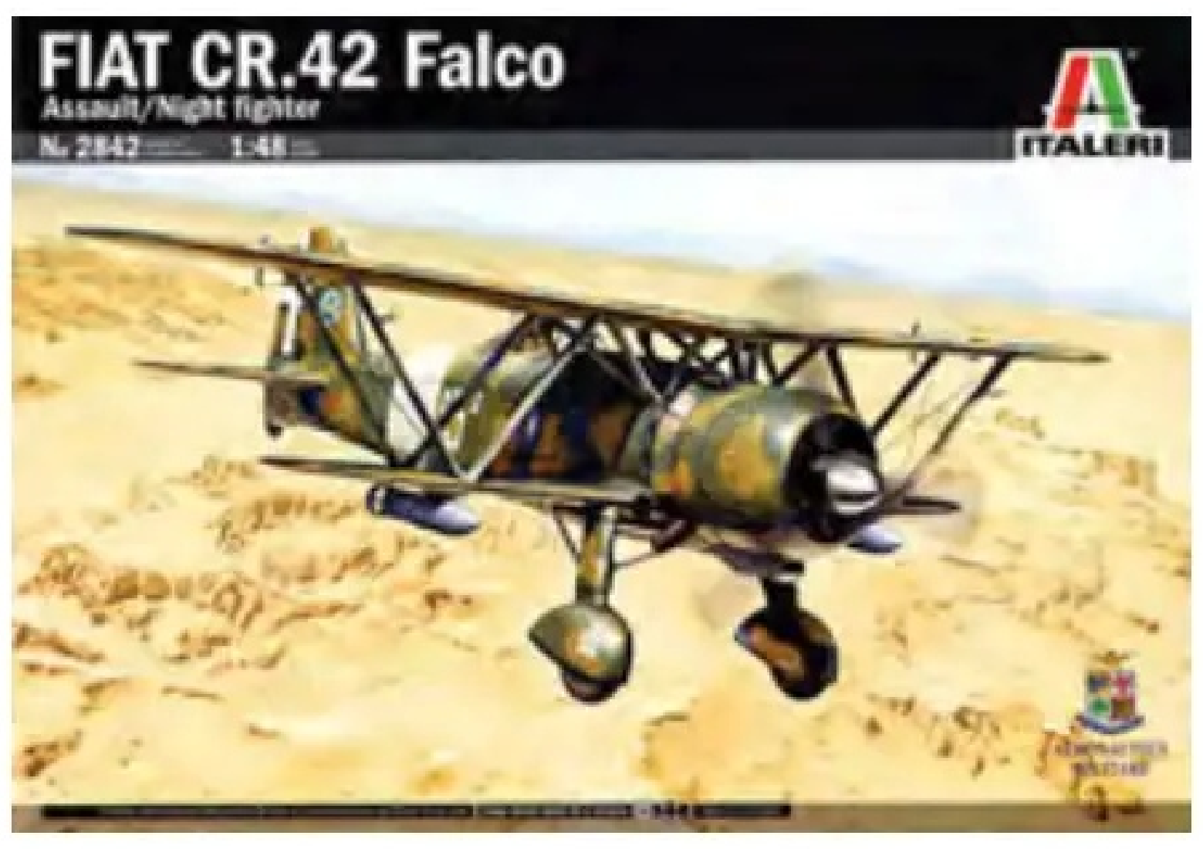
1/72

1432 Mi-24/Mi-35 Hind

91216 JAS-39D Gripen Twin Seater

1/48

2842 Fiat CR.42 Falco


FIAT CR.42 Falco
Assault/Night fighter
No. 2842
1:48
ITALERI

1/35

6763 M47 Patton

1/24

3963 Iveco S-Way

Mark I Models (www.4pluspublicationscom)

1/144

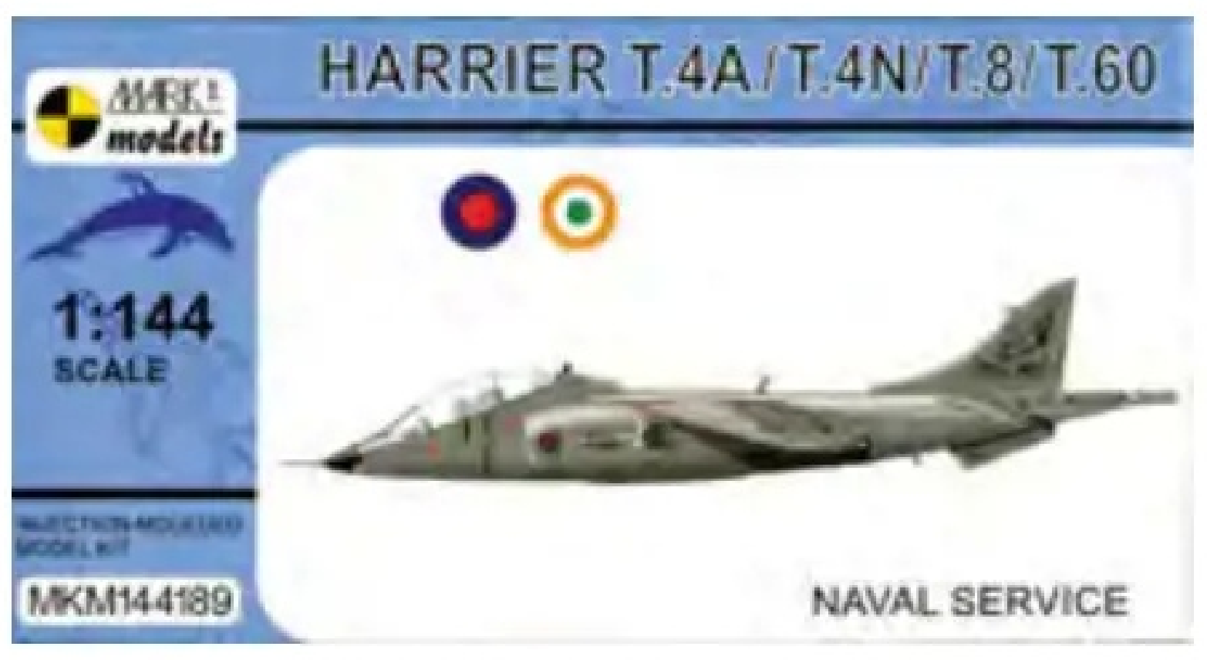
MKM144185 Messerschmitt Bf 109G-6

MKM14472N Messerschmitt Bf 109G-10

MKM14474N Messerschmitt Bf 109K

MKM144187 Harrier T.2/TAV-8A/VAE.1 'Tall fin'

MKM144189 Harrier T.4A/T-4N/T.8/T.60 'Naval Service'


MARK I models
HARRIER T.4A / T.4N / T.8 / T.60
1:144
SCALE
MKM144189
NAVAL SERVICE

MKM144188 Harrier T.4/T.4A At Home & on the Continent

Master Box (www.creativemodels.co.uk)

1/35

MB35246 Buggy Mongoose. The Ukrainian Battlefield Evacuation

Russian-Ukrainian
War series
MB
Buggy Mongoose. The Ukrainian
Battlefield evacuation version with crew

MB35247 Summer 2024 Ukrainian Infantry, Kursk Region

MiniArt (www.creativemodels.co.uk)

1/35

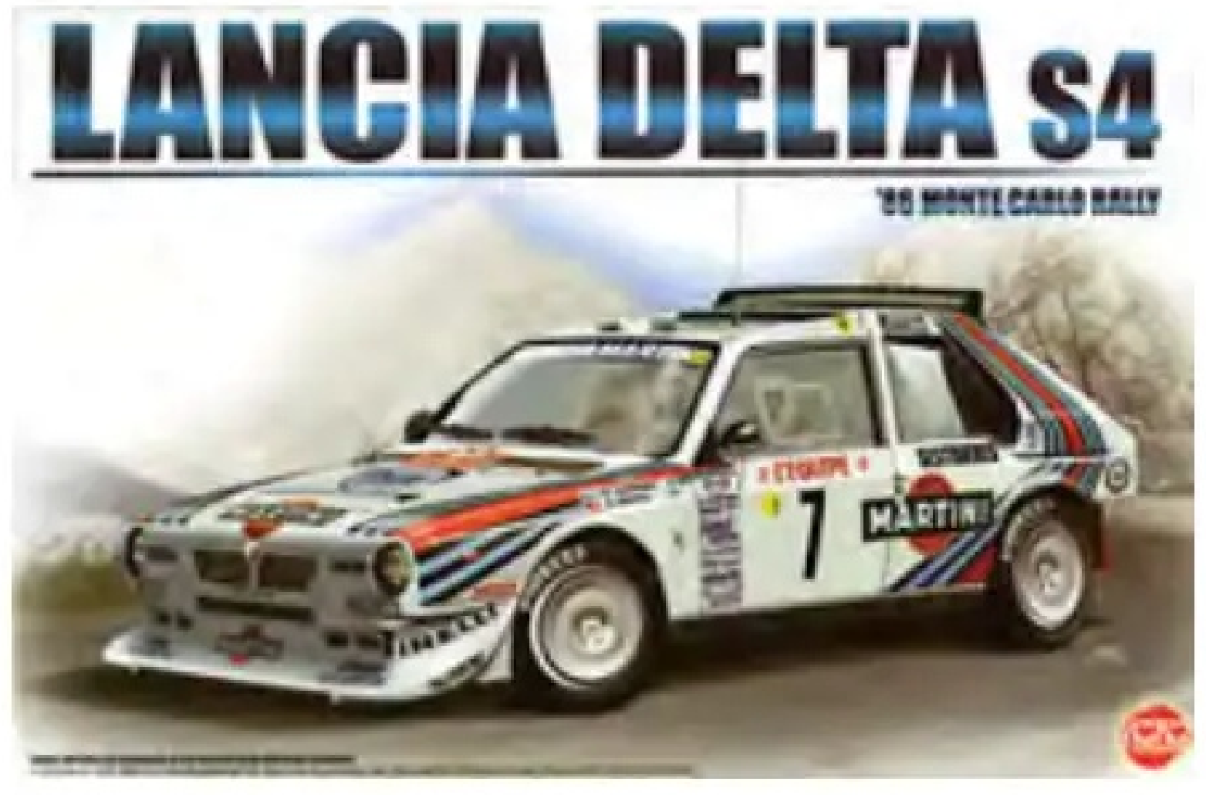
36064 Dresden 1945. T-34/85 Field Repair

DRESDEN 1945. T-34/85 FIELD REPAIR
BIG SET
1:35 SCALE

NuNu (www.hobbyco.net)

1/24

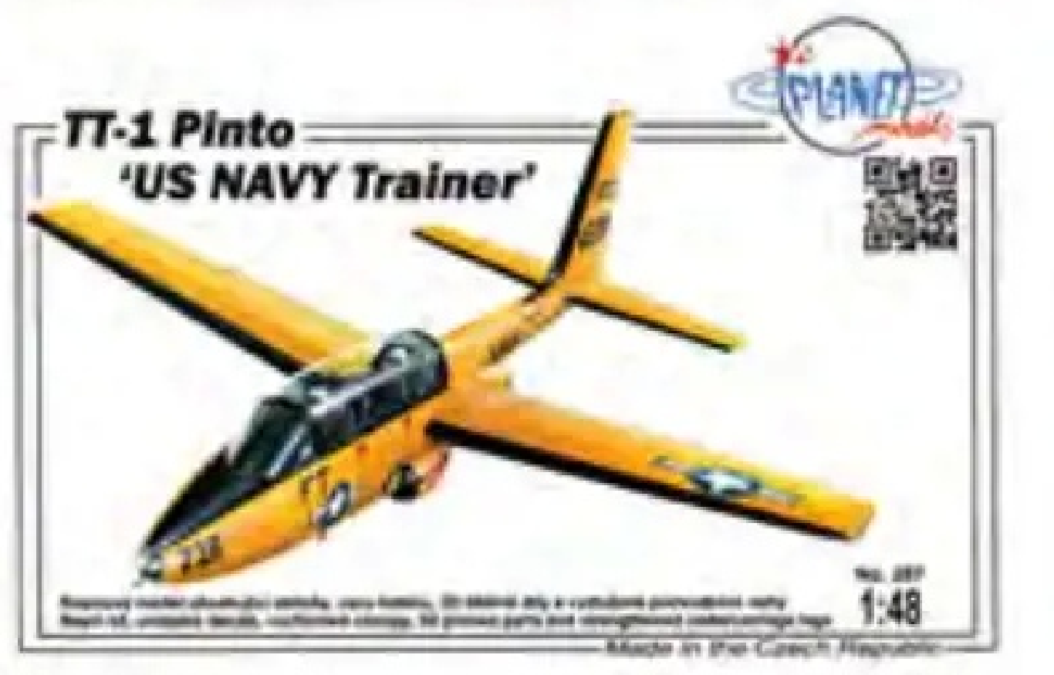
NU24030 Lancia Delta S4 Martini Montecarlo 1986


LANCIA DELTA S4
'86 MONTE CARLO RALLY
MARTINI
7

Planet Models (www.specialhobby.eu)

1/48

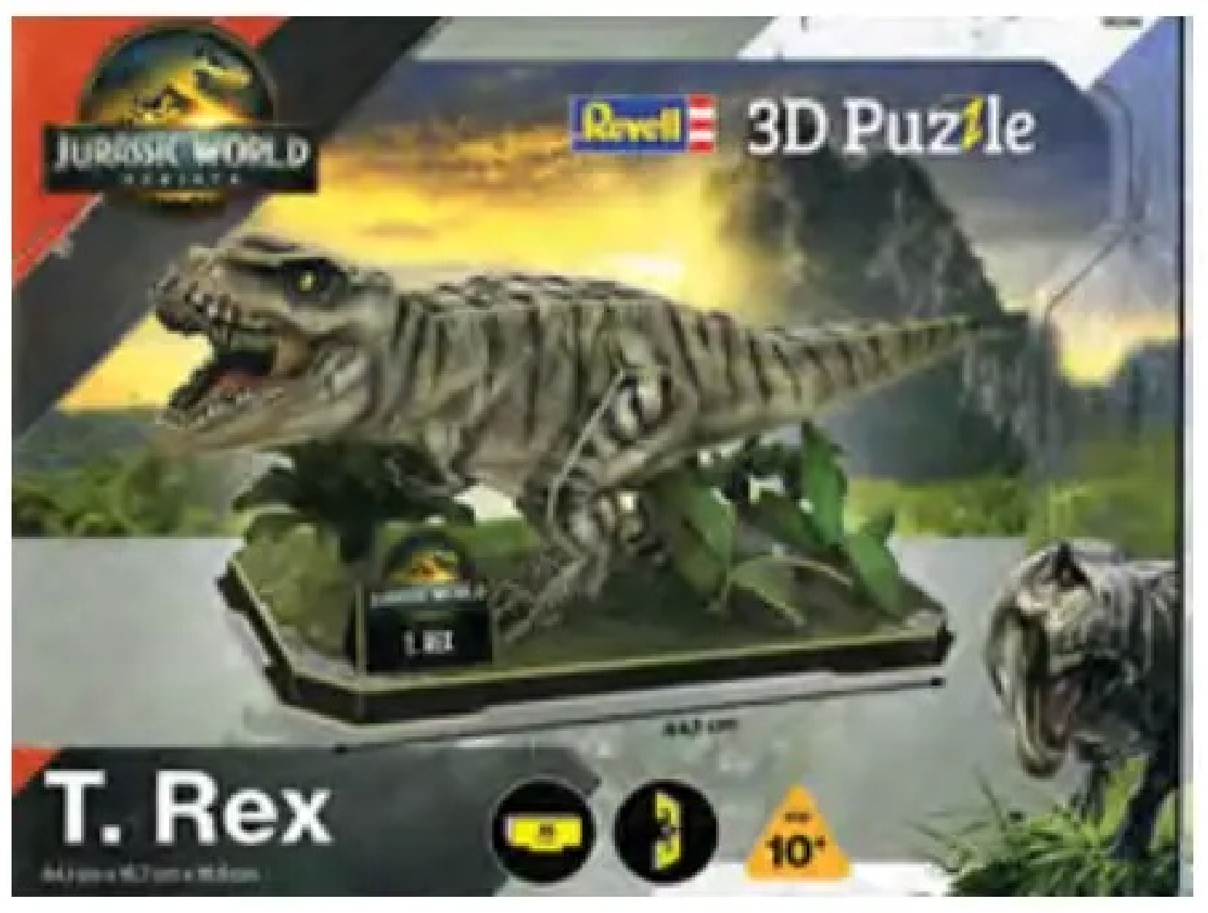
287 TT-1 Pinto 'US Navy Trainer'


TT-1 Pinto
'US NAVY Trainer'
PLANET
1:48
Made in the Czech Republic

Revell (www.revell.co.uk)

3D Puzzle

00246 T-Rex

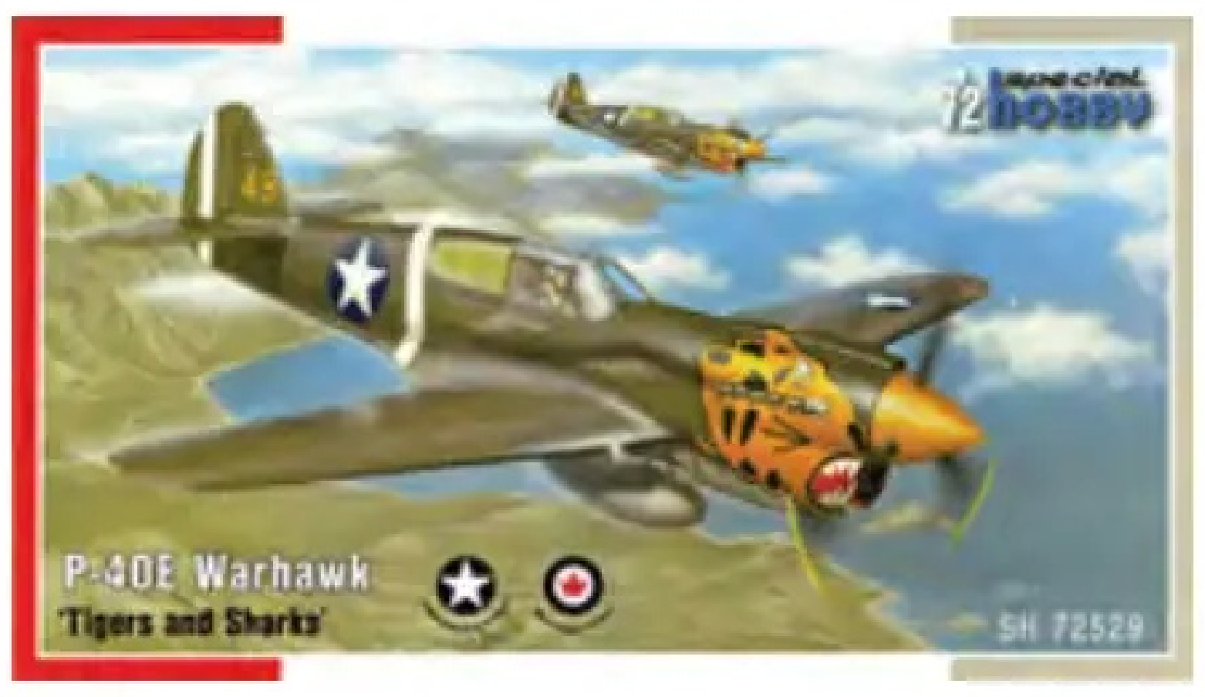

JURASSIC WORLD
Revell
3D Puzzle
T. Rex
10+

00253 Eurofighter Typhoon

Special Hobby (www.specialhobby.eu)

1/72

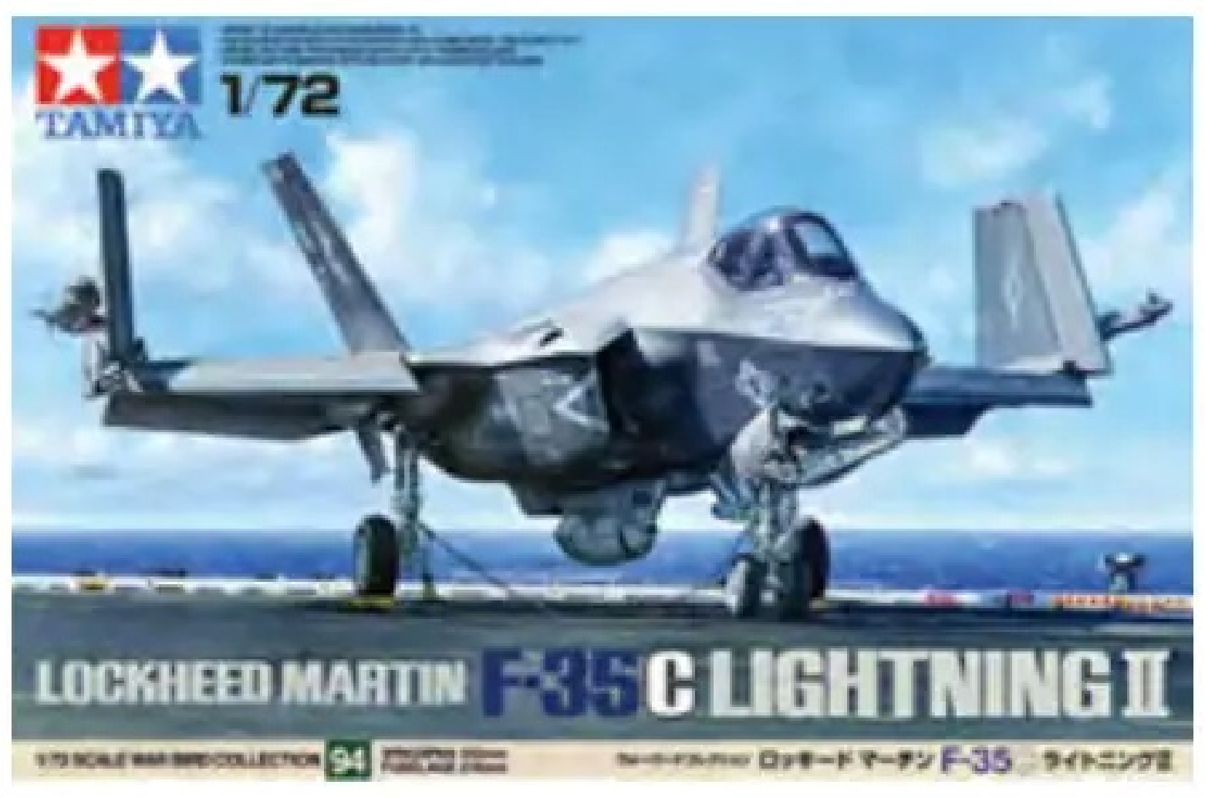
SH72529 P-40E Warhawk 'Tigers and Sharks'


Special Hobby
P-40E Warhawk
'Tigers and Sharks'
SH 72529

Tamiya (www.hobbyco.net)

1/72

60794 Lockheed Martin F-35C Lightning II


TAMIYA
1/72
LOCKHEED MARTIN F-35C LIGHTNING II
94

1/35

35392 German 5cm Anti-Tank Gun (Pak 38)

GERMAN
5cm ANTI-TANK GUN (Pak38)
TAMIYA
1/35 Scale

1/24

24373 Honda Prelude

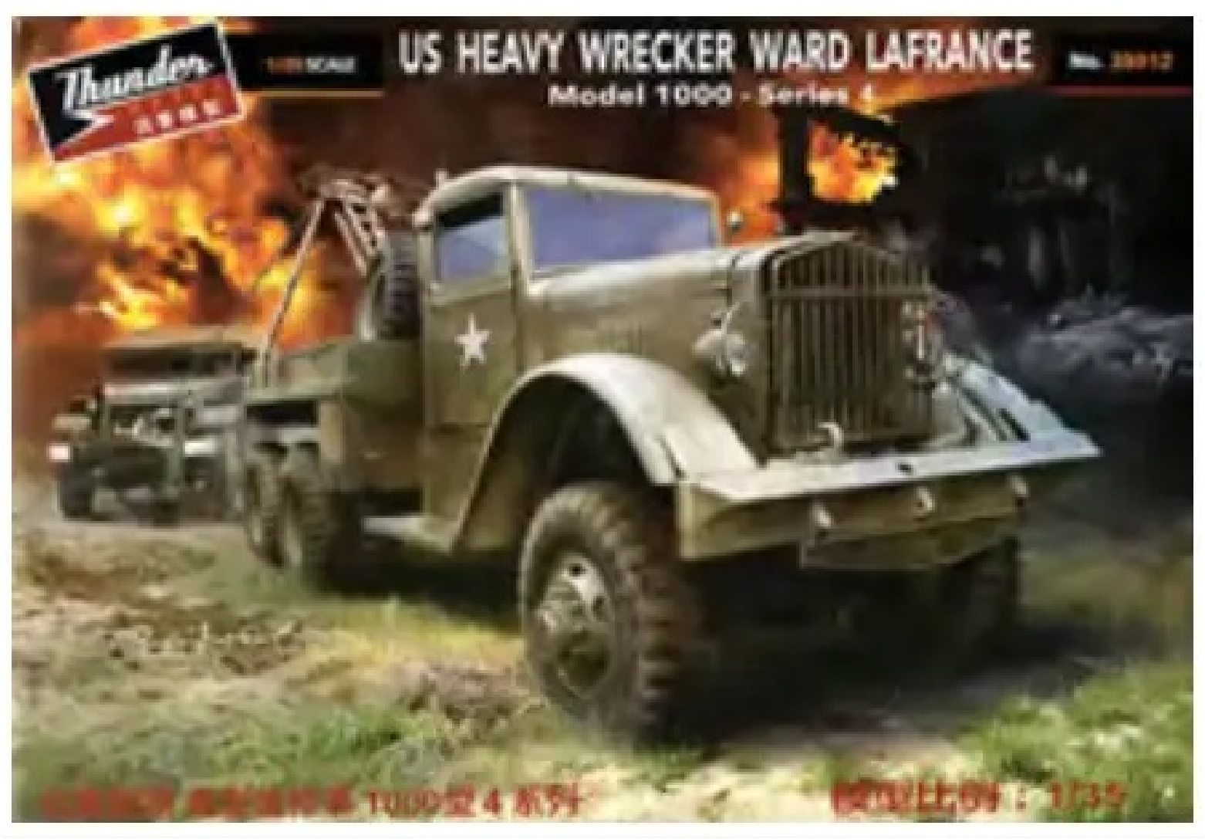
Prelude
TAMIYA

24029 Mercedes-Benz 500 SEC

Thunder Models (www.albionhobbies.com)

1/35

35012 US Heavy Wrecker Ward Lafrance Model 1000 – Series 4


Thunder Model
US HEAVY WRECKER WARD LAFRANCE
Model 1000 - Series 4

RS MODELS

NEW 1:72 AIRCRAFT MODELS

Nové Pole 2, 793 42 Janovice
tel.: +420 776 733 309
e-mail: rsmodels@rsmodels.cz

www.rsmodels.cz

RWD-13 „Legion Condor”
Polský turistický letoun / Polish touring plane
92307
1:72 SCALE PLASTIC KIT

RWD-13 S/ST „Romania”
Polský turistický letoun / Polish touring plane
92306
1:72 SCALE PLASTIC KIT

RWD-13S ST „Middle East”
Polský turistický letoun / Polish touring plane
92305
1:72 SCALE PLASTIC KIT

RWD-13S ST
Polský turistický letoun / Polish touring plane
92301
1:72 SCALE PLASTIC KIT

Trains4U.com

Peterborough's model and hobby specialists

Open Tues-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 10:30am – 3:30pm, closed Monday

27 St. David's Square, Fengate
Peterborough, PE1 5QA
☎ 01733 895989
✉ Info@Trains4U.com

We stock a massive selection of Paints, Glues, Tools & Weathering Products

Follow us on:

MODELS2U

Bringing Models to You!

THE NUMBER ONE, ONE-STOP MODEL SHOP

- Fast and friendly service
- Easy to navigate webshop

10% OFF many models & figures

Large range of over 4,500 models, figures, tools and accessories from Revell, Airfix, Italeri, Tamiya *plus many more* and ready for immediate despatch! Based in the Midlands since 2001 with worldwide shipping available.

Call: **01543 433999**
Email: **help@models2u.co.uk**

models2u

www.models2u.co.uk

E-DAY 2024

BRENGUN Hauler

4.10.2025, Litoměřice, CZ

DISCOUNT

-25% for pre-orders
-20% at place

modelsforsale.com

Plastic model kits, New, Second-Hand, and Discontinued. Books and Accessories.

WANTED

Quality collections of second-hand model kits, military books, decals, photo-etch & detail sets. Will collect on larger quantites.

Please see our website for more details or please call us.

Tel:01933 622654
email: sales@modelsforsale.com
Unit 3 Dean Close - Raunds - Northants NN9 6BD

492 U.S. trailer M10

plusmodel

1/35

573 Hand operated port crane

High quality accessories

Buy direct on www.plusmodel.cz

SEEING IS BELIEVING

Take a look at our ABC certificate. It shows our circulation has been independently verified to industry agreed standards. So our advertisers know they're getting what they paid for.

ABC. See it. Believe it. Trust it.

To advertise, call Matt Sinclair on
01780 663011 Ext: 142
Email: matt.sinclair@keypublishing.com

AIRFIX Model World

abc
www.abc.org.uk

MonkBar Model Shop
Established in 1963

2 Goodramgate - York - YO1 7LQ
01904 659423
info@monkbarmodelshop.co.uk

Great Selection of Plastic Kits

MONK BAR MODEL SHOP LTD

Open Monday - Saturday
9am - 5pm

Located only 2 minutes away from York Minster

Stockists of Airfix, Tamiya, Revell, Italeri, Dragon, Trumpeter, Academy, Takom, Amusing Hobby, AFV Club, Rye Field Models, Dora Wings, Eduard, HK Models, Zvesda and many more

monkbarmodelshop.co.uk

To advertise please contact...
EMMA SHERRATT - Sales Executive
- Tel: **01780 663011** Ext: **191**
- Email: **emma.sherratt@keypublishing.com**

BOOKS

Tornado books & hobbies
Aviation - Railways
Military - Maritime
Road Transport
Books - Kits - Diecast
Paints & Accessories
68-70 Dalton Street,
Birmingham. B4 7LX
0121 236 2283
Open Tue - Sat, 10am - 5pm
www.tornadobookshop.co.uk

DEC 2025 ISSUE
Copy Deadline
15th October
On-Sale
6th November

York Military Books

Pre-owned model kits, wargaming
& diecast models & figures.

New & pre-owned Military, Naval & Aviation Books.

Collections of any of the above wanted.

Best prices paid. Prompt, professional service.

Tel: 01423 360828
www.yorkmilitarybooks.co.uk
www.ebay.co.uk/str/yorkmilitarybooks

ENGRAVING

Ensure your models are cherished
EngraveFast.co.uk
31 Squadron Tornado GR4
Made with love in 2017 by Grandad Arnold
For Olivers' 18th Birthday 21st June 2034
Fine Brass Plaques made to your specification
Order online
01372 459 805

MODEL SHOPS

RIF-RAF MODELS
129 ALBERT STREET, DUNDEE, DD4 6PR
TELEPHONE: 01382 760313
ENQUIRIES@RIF-RAFMODELS.UK
Find us on Facebook

ARE YOU READING THIS?
then this advert has worked!
Call **NOW** to advertise

US AIR FORCE X-24B

FANTASTIC PLASTIC
Unique Resin Kits for Experienced Modelers
Visit the Virtual Museum Store
www.Fantastic-Plastic.com
Concept Aircraft * Spacecraft * Sci-Fi

MODEL SHOPS

Freightdog Models
Home of Blue Max and Pegasus Models
Online shop for kits, decals and accessories
www.freightdogmodels.co.uk
+44 (0) 1342 716004
BLUE MAX
Fairlight, Sandy Lane, Crawley Down, Crawley, RH10 4HX

CHURCH STREET MODELS

10A Church St, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 7QE
Tel: **01256 358060**
OPEN: Tues (October-March),
Wed-Sat 09.30-17.00
www.churchstreetmodels.co.uk

AIRFIX & REVELL KITS
- 1/35 & 1/72 Tanks 1/48 & 1/72 Planes
- Ships - *various* • Cars - *1/24, 1/25 & 1/32*
- Paint - *enamel/acrylic/ Tamiya acrylic*
- Weathering Powders • Washes
- Glues • Plastruct • Balsa wood
- Scenery • Abrasives & Tools

GRAVESEND MODEL CENTRE
All your modelling, railway & wargaming needs under one roof
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
Monday - Saturday 9am till 4.30pm
Sunday 10am till 4pm
15 The High Street, Gravesend, DA11 0BQ
(Next to the New Ceasers Restaurant)
E: gravesendmodelcentre@gmail.com
Tel: **01474 536531**
www.gravesendmodelcentre.co.uk

WANTED

ALL PLASTIC MODEL KITS WANTED
Unmade or already built, any quantity, especially large collections, also diecast models & books. Will collect nationwide and pay best cash price.
Please call 01202 976974 or 07901-890461
Email: mspicer68@hotmail.com
Thanks.

BE WISE
WHEN YOU ADVERTISE

Hornby Magazine is independently verified by ABC.

So our advertisers know they are getting what they paid for.

ABC. See it. Believe it. Trust it.

To advertise, call Matt Sinclair on
01780 663011 Ext: 142
Email: matt.sinclair@keypublishing.com
HORNBY magazine abc www.abc.org.uk

AIRFIX

Retail Partners

CUMBRIA

- **JACKSONS MODELS & RAILWAYS**
  33 New Street, Wigton,
  Cumbria CA7 9AL
  Telephone: **01697 342557**
  Email: **info@jacksonsmodels.co.uk**
  Website: **www.jacksonsmodels.co.uk**

STAFFORDSHIRE

- **RUBICON MODELS UK LTD**
  Allanson House, Walley Street,
  Biddulph, Stoke-on-Trent ST8 6EA
  Email: **stevep@rubiconmodels.com**
  Website: **www.rubiconmodels.co.uk**

TYNE-ON-WEAR

- **SUNDERLAND STATION MODELS**
  90 Ryhope Road, Grangetown, Sunderland,
  Tyne & Wear SR2 9QE.
  Tel: **07727 288574**
  Email:
  sunderlandstationmodels@hotmail.com
  Website: **www.sunderlandstationmodels.co.uk**

WEST YORKSHIRE

- **HALIFAX MODELLERS WORLD**
  25 Horton Street, Halifax HX1 1QE
  Telephone: **01422 349157**
  Email: **halifaxmodellersworld@gmail.com**
  Website: **www.halifaxmodellersworld.co.uk**
- **GOING LOCO MODEL RAILWAY SHOP**
  38 Potovens Lane, Lofthouse,
  Wakefield WF3 3JF
  Telephone: **01924 824748**
  Email: **goinglocomodels@hotmail.com**
  Website: **goinglocomodels.com**

WILTSHIRE

- **SALISBURY MODEL CENTRE**
  37 Fisherton Street Salisbury
  Wiltshire SP2 7SU
  Telephone: **01722 334 757**
  Website: **www.salisburymodelcentre.co.uk**
  Opening: Open 6 days a week inc. Sundays

To advertise your details here please contact one of the team...

EMMA SHERRATT - Tel: 01780 663011 - Ext: 191

Email: **emma.sherratt@keypublishing.com**

To see the full list of all Airfix stockists visit

www.airfix.com/stockists

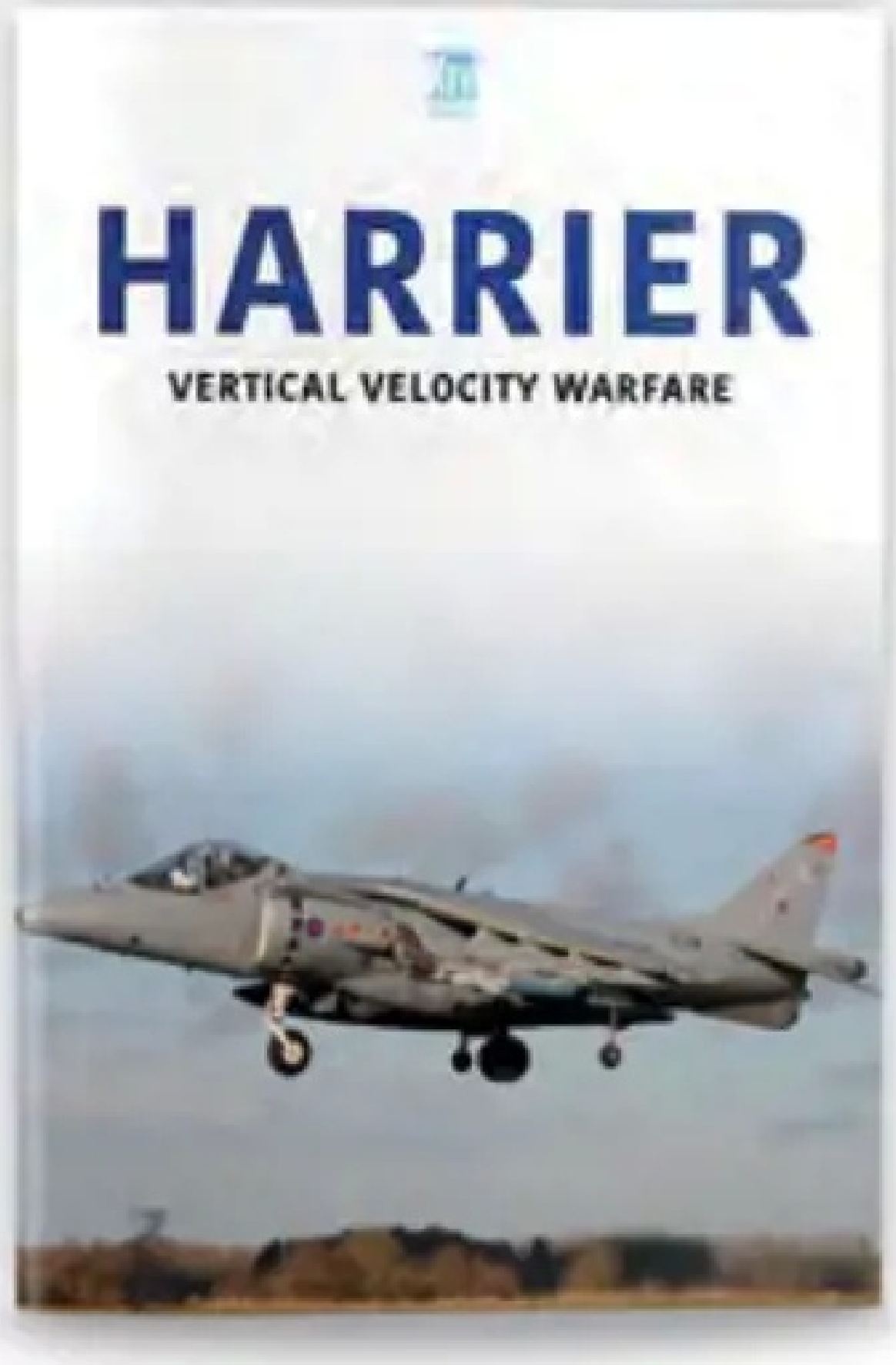
WRITE FOR KEY!

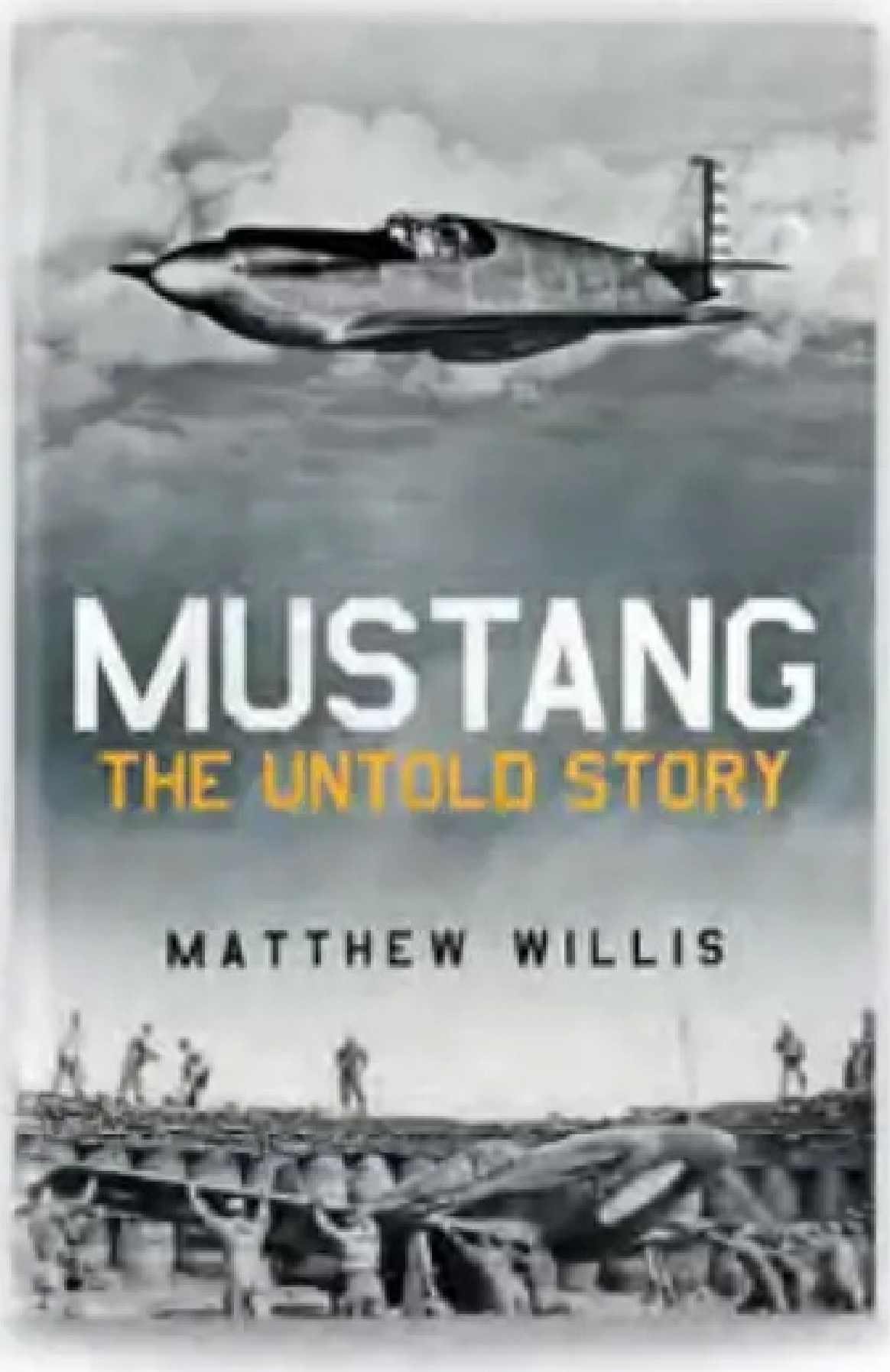
KEY Books

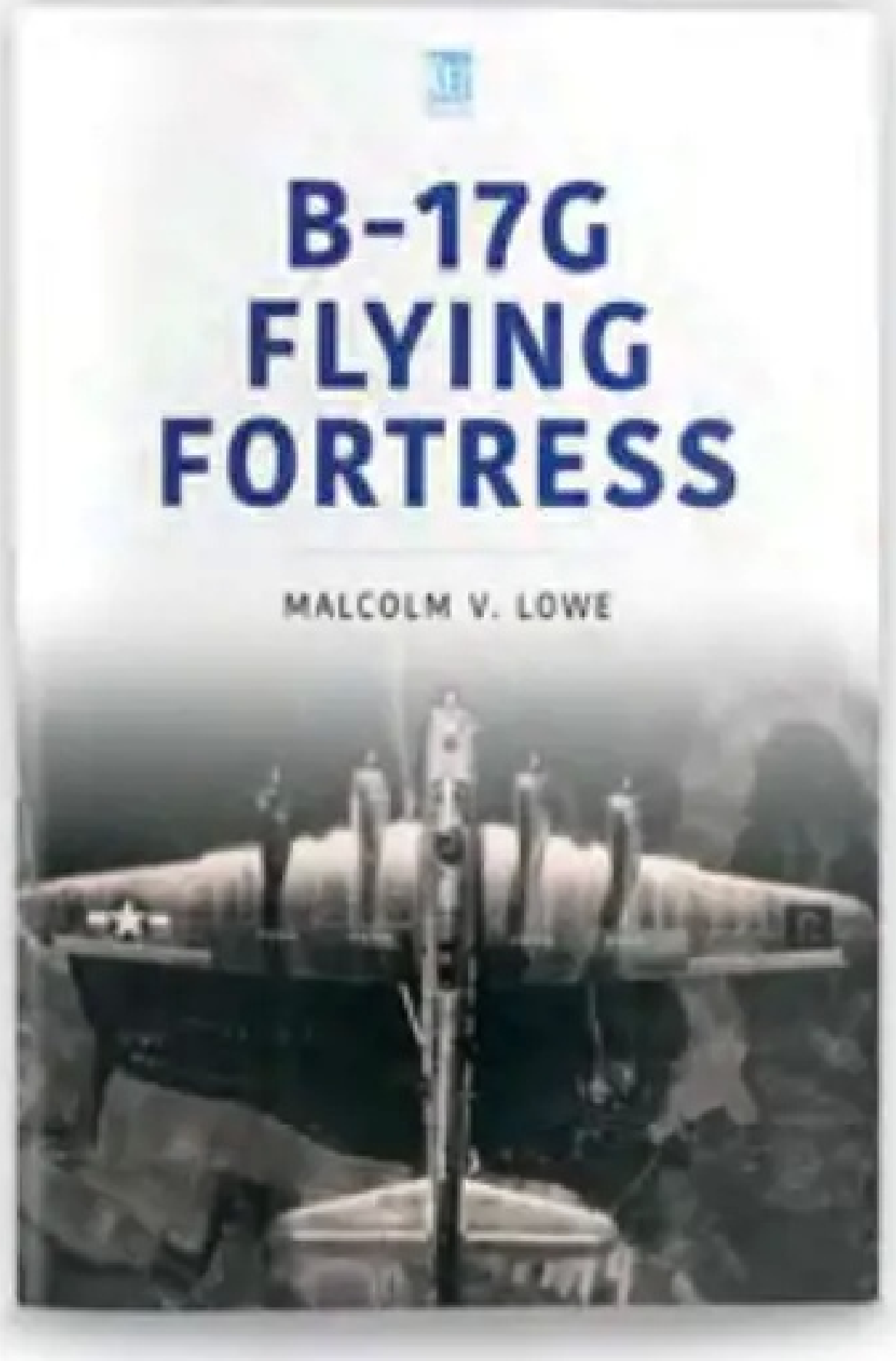
To propose an idea or find out more, simply email

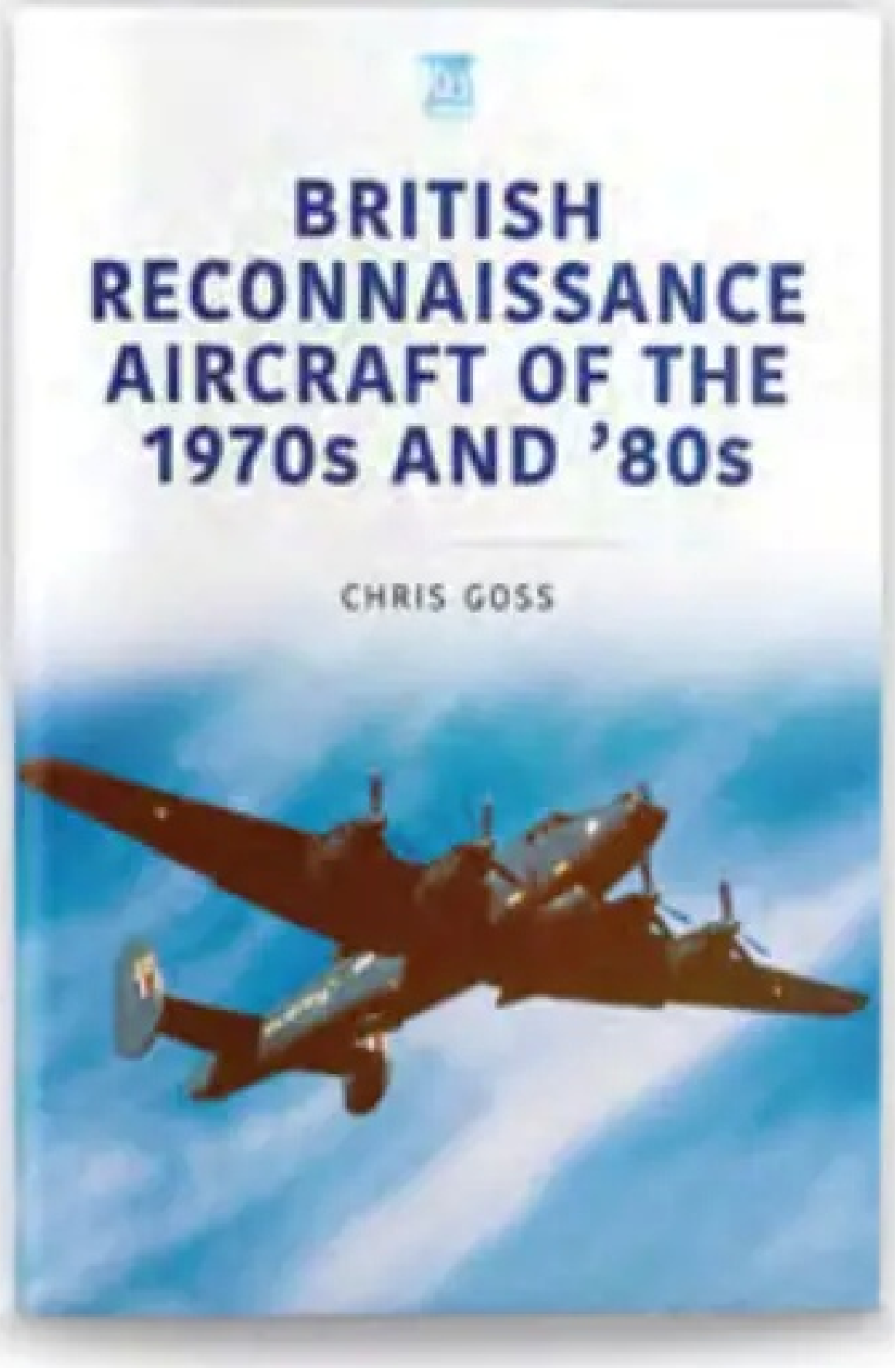
books@keypublishing.com

Having established itself as a leading publisher of aviation books, Key Books is now looking for authors to join its international team of contributors. We are looking for existing authors and new ones, who really know their subject, especially if they have a great picture collection that could become an illustrated book.









We look forward to hearing from you!

SHOW GUIDE

At-a-glance model show calendar

KEY
👁 Model Display
🏅 Model Competition
🏷 Trade Stands
✈ Aircraft Display
🪖 Military Display
🚗 Automotive Display
☕ Refreshments
🅿 Free Parking
🖌 Make 'N' Paint

Scale ModelWorld 2025

Date: November 8-9, 2025
Hosts: IPMS (UK)
Address: The International Centre, St Quentin Gate, Telford, Shropshire TF3 4JH
Times: Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-4pm
Prices: Adults £25 (one day), accompanied under 16s free
Email: scalemodelworld@ipmsuk.co.uk
Web: https://ipmsuk.org/ipms-scale-modelworld/

👁 🏅 🏷 ☕ 🖌

October

11 Highland Scale Model Show

Hosts: Kinloss & Forres Model Club (IPMS Highland Branch)
Address: Morayvia, North Road, Kinloss, Forres, Moray IV36 3YA
Times: 11am-4pm
Prices: Adults £8, children under 16 £5, under 4s free
Email: tomdocherty72@hotmail.com
Web: Kinloss & Forres Model Club (Facebook)

👁 🏷 ☕ 🏅

11-12 Plastic & Steel

Hosts: IPMS Belgium
Address: GC Klein Boom, Mechelbaan 604, 2580 Putte
Times: 10am-4pm daily
Prices: Adults €2 (online booking)
Email: TBC
Web: www.plasticandsteel.be

👁 🏷 🏅 ☕

12 Lincoln Scale Model Show

Hosts: IPMS Lincoln
Address: The Exo Centre, Lincolnshire Showground, Grange-de-lings, Lincoln LN2 2NA
Times: 10am-4pm
Prices: Adults £5, under 16s free
Email: secretarylincolnmodelclub@gmail.com
Web: N/A

👁 🏷 ☕ 🅿

18 Letchworth Scale Modelling Club Showcase 2025

Hosts: Letchworth Scale Modelling Club
Address: The Icknield Centre, Icknield Way, Letchworth SG6 1EF
Times: 10am-4pm
Prices: Adults £5, under 16s free
Email: letchworthscalemodelclub@outlook.com
Web: Letchworth Scale Modelling Club (Facebook)

👁 🏅 🏷 ☕

19 IPMS Malvern Hills Model Show

Host: IPMS Malvern Hills
Address: MSJ Sports & Fitness Centre, Inside The Dome, 33 Barnard's Road, Barnard's Green, Malvern WR14 3LH
Prices: Adults £5, under 16s free
Times: 10am-4pm
Email: fitnessproeh@gmail.com
Web: IPMS Malvern (Facebook page)

👁 🏷 ☕

24-25 C4-Open Show 2025

Hosts: C4-Open
Address: Baltiska hallen, Eric Perssons väg 8a, Malmö, Sweden
Times: 10am-4pm (both days)
Prices: SEK100 entrance fee for two days
Email: c4openmalmo@gmail.com
Web: www.c4-open.se

👁 🏅 🏷 ☕

26 Yeovil Model Show

Hosts: Ken Bugler
Address: Westfield Academy, Stiby Road, Yeovil BA21 3EP
Times: 10am-4pm
Prices: Adults £6, accompanied under 16s £3, under 5s free (cash only)
Email: yeovilmodelshow@gmail.com
Web: Yeovil Model Show (Facebook)

👁 🏷 ☕ 🅿

November

23 Army Flying Museum Aircraft Enthusiasts' Fair & Model Show

Hosts: Army Flying Museum
Address: Army Flying Museum, Middle Wallop, Stockbridge, Hampshire SO20 8FB
Times: 10am-3pm
Prices: Adults £12, children £7, Under 5s free (museum entry included)
Email: eventassistant@armyflying.com
Web: www.armyflying.com

👁 🏷 ✈ 🪖 ☕

January 2026

25 South Wales Modellers Show

Hosts: South Wales Modellers
Address: Y Pant School, Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun, Cardiff CF72 8YQ
Prices: Adults £5, accompanied under 16s and MAFVA free
Times: 10am-4pm
Email: TBC
Web: South Wales Modellers (Facebook)

👁 🏅 🏷 ☕ 🅿

25 IPMS Bolton Scale Model Show 2026

Hosts: IPMS Bolton
Address: TS Community Stadium, de Havilland Way, Bolton BL6 6JW
Prices: TBC
Times: 10am-4pm
Email: N/A
Web: Bolton IPMS (Facebook)

👁 🏷 ☕ 🅿

February 2026

14 Morecambe Model Exhibition

Hosts: Morecambe Bay Model Club
Address: Morecambe Library, Central Drive, Morecambe LA4 5DL
Times: 9am-4pm
Prices: Free
Email: morecambebaymodelgroup@gmail.com
Web: morecambebaymodelgroup.org.uk

👁

May 2026

30 IPMS Salisbury Scale Model Show

Hosts: IPMS Salisbury
Address: Wyvern St Edmund's Sports Hall, Church Road, Laverstock, Salisbury SP1 1RD
Times: 09.30am-4.00pm
Prices: Adults £5, children free
Email: modelclub@ipmssalisbury.co.uk
Web: www.ipmssalisbury.co.uk

👁 🏅 🏷 ☕ 🅿

Please note, all events are subject to change and cancellation. These listings are collated from various sources and are believed to be correct at the time of going to press – check with organisers prior to attendance. If you're planning a model show, please email details in the format shown to: **stuart.fone@keypublishing.com** Further information is available at: **www.KeyModelWorld.com**

NEXT MONTH
The next issue of *AMW* goes on sale in the UK on **November 6, 2025**

THE SPITFIRE & HURRICANE
MEMORIAL MUSEUM
MANSTON, KENT

FREE ADMISSION

Our Museum is home to Spitfire Mk XVI (LF) TB752 & Hawker Hurricane IIC LF751 (Displayed as BN230). Come and explore the history of these two iconic aircraft together with a host of other exhibits telling the story of the RAF at war and life on the Home Front.

DONATE TODAY!

www.spitfiremuseum.org.uk

Can you help us?

We are seeking parts to build a partial fuselage of a PR Spitfire and also supporting artefacts for display in the museum.

If you have anything you think may be of interest to us please contact: manager@spitfiremuseum.org.uk

NEW MOULD

1:72

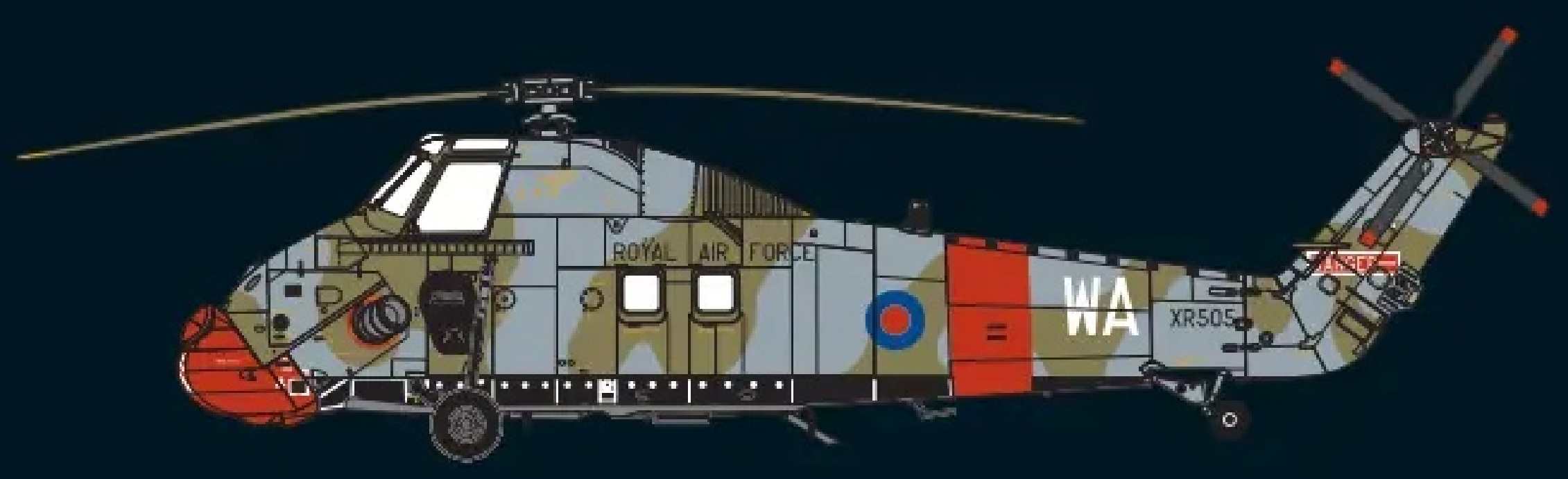
Westland Wessex HC.2

A04068

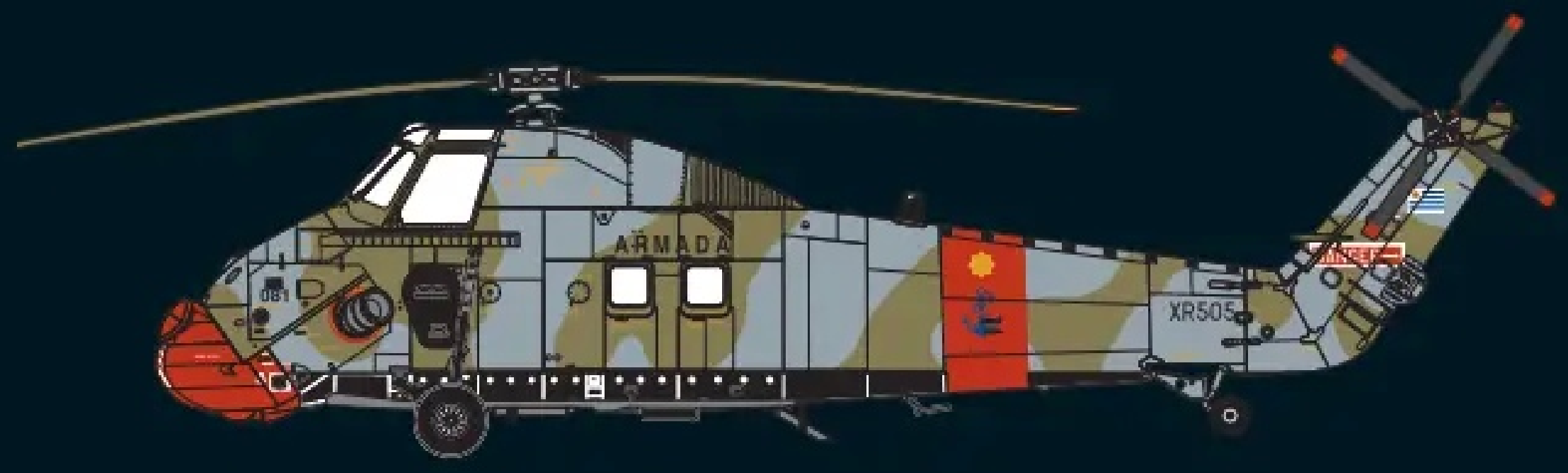
ROYAL AIR FORCE
ARMADA
ROYAL AIR FORCE

The Westland Wessex HC.2 was a licence-built turbine-powered development of the classic American Sikorski S-58 ‘Choctaw’ helicopter, one of the world’s first truly capable helicopters which established these aircraft as essential for a host of military and civilian applications. The continuation of an existing arrangement between Sikorsky and Westland, the Wessex was initially developed for the Royal Navy in the anti-submarine and utility roles but was further developed as the HC.2 for the Royal Air Force, entering service in 1962, a year later than the Navy machines. The Wessex represented the pinnacle of rotary technology when introduced and could operate from, and into places that other aircraft couldn’t.

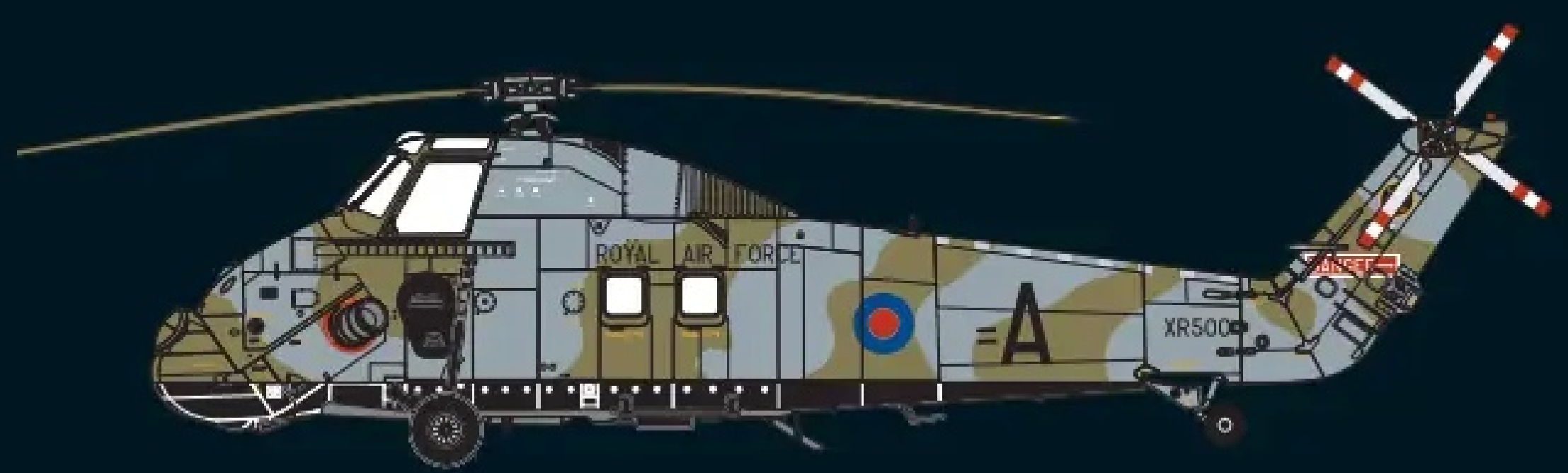
- Fully detailed interior with seating.
- Poseable cabin door and cockpit windows.
- Option for folded or unfolded rotor blades and tail.
- Representation of quilted surfaces throughout the interior and cockpit.
- Many optional parts including lights, antenna, winch and canopy type.



WESTLAND WESSEX HC.2
No.2 Flying Training School, Royal Air Force
Shawbury, England, 1995.



WESTLAND WESSEX HC.2
Armada Nacional del Uruguay, Base Aeronaval
No.2, Uruguay, 2000.



WESTLAND WESSEX HC.2
No.28 Squadron, Royal Air Force Sek Kong,
Hong Kong, 1978.

Length 211mm Width 237mm Pieces 134

Airfix.com
and all good retail stockists

The excitement is building

HORNBY HOBBIES
Official Product